



**The Commission for the Conservation and Management of
Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean**

**Fifteenth Regular Session of the Commission
Honolulu, Hawaii, USA
10- 14 December 2018**

SUMMARY REPORT

Issued 4 May 2019

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SUMMARY REPORT

AGENDA ITEM 1 — OPENING OF MEETING

1. The Fifteenth Regular Session of the Commission for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (WCPFC15) took place from 10–14 December 2018 in Honolulu, Hawaii, USA.
2. The following Members and Participating Territories attended WCPFC15: American Samoa, Australia, Canada, the China, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), the Cook Islands, the European Union (EU), the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), Fiji, France, French Polynesia, Guam, Indonesia, Japan, Kiribati, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI), Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea (PNG), the Philippines, Samoa, the Solomon Islands, Chinese Taipei, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, the United States of America (USA) Vanuatu, and Wallis and Futuna.
3. The following non-party countries attended WCPFC15 as Cooperating Non-Members (CNMs): Ecuador, El Salvador, Liberia, Panama, Thailand and Vietnam.
4. Nicaragua attended WCPFC15 as a State observer.
5. Observers from the following intergovernmental organizations attended WCPFC15: Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-like Species in the North Pacific Ocean (ISC), North Pacific Fisheries Commission (NPFC), Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA), Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS), Parties to the Nauru Agreement (PNA), the Pacific Community (SPC), Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), University of the South Pacific, and The World Bank.
6. Observers from the following non-governmental organizations (NGOs) attended WCPFC15: American Tunaboat Association (ATA), Australian National Centre for Ocean Resources and Security (ANCORS), Birdlife International, Blue Ocean Institute, Conservation International, Environmental

Defense Fund (EDF), International Environmental Law Project (IELP), International Pole and Line Foundation (IPNLF), International Seafood Sustainability Foundation (ISSF), Marine Stewardship Council, Ocean Friends Against Driftnets, Organisation for the Promotion of Responsible Tuna Fisheries, Organization for Regional and Inter-regional Studies, Pacific Islands Tuna Industry Association (PITIA), Pew Charitable Trust, Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center, Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Foundation, The Nature Conservancy (TNC), World Tuna Purse Seine Organisation (WTPO), and World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF).

7. A full list of all participants is provided in **Attachment A**.
8. The 15th regular session of the WCPFC was preceded with a Hawaiian Oli at 9:15am on Monday, 10 December 2018.
9. Following the traditional Hawaiian presentation, Reverend Kaleo Patterson offered a Pule (prayer and ceremony of cleansing).
10. The WCPFC Executive Director, Feleti P Teo, OBE welcomed delegates to Honolulu. He observed that technically there was no official host government for WCPFC15 after the decision to relocate the meeting from Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), but thanked the United States for its financial contribution and logistical support, and the Western Pacific Fisheries Management Council (WPFMC) for its help in securing the meeting venue at short notice, and for the help with organizational arrangements. He expressed appreciation to the United States' tuna industry for hosting the welcoming ceremony. The Executive Director noted that the meeting facility has a special place in the history of the Commission, as it is where the WCPFC Convention was adopted and opened for signature in September 2000. He highlighted the following three issues: the importance of the science–management dialogue in expediting the implementation of the harvest strategy workplan; review of the compliance monitoring scheme (CMS) and the need to agree on a measure that will allow the CMS to continue beyond 2018; and the need to adopt a corporate planning document for the Commission. He closed by wishing delegates success in their deliberations. The full statement of the Executive Director is in **Attachment B**.
11. The Commission Chair, Ms Rhea Moss-Christian, offered opening remarks in which she referenced the negotiations to establish the Commission. She noted that a number of individuals who were present when the Commission was established were again present at WCPFC15. The WCPFC was the first agreement established following adoption in 1995 of the UN Fish Stocks Agreement (FSA), and incorporates a number of key provisions of that Agreement, including the principle of compatibility, the need to take into consideration the special requirements of developing States, participation by territories, and adoption of the precautionary approach. She reviewed how the Commission has grown, as evidenced by its budget and the size of its reports. She noted that conservation and management measures (CMMs) are in place for the key tuna species, and for a number of non-target, dependent and associated species, and that elements of a harvest strategy management approach are being developed and adopted. She noted that scientific knowledge forms the basis for the cornerstone of WCPFC management decisions, and that while national aspirations drive individual countries positions, a greater responsibility should be borne in mind, in light of the shared ancestry of the members of the Commission. She referenced two recent bold fisheries challenges put forth by Pacific Island leaders: the President of Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) challenged the region to eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing by 2023, and the President of Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) issued a challenge to achieve full transparency in tuna fisheries by 2023. She observed that it was not a coincidence that these two bold challenges came from two of the most vulnerable island nations, whose economies and futures are directly tied to the health of the tuna resources. She stated that WCPFC has the lead responsibility in meeting these challenges issued by the leaders of two of its

members, and that putting a timeframe to these tasks ensures that members stay focused and continue making ongoing progress. She acknowledged the hard work of the Executive Director and the Secretariat staff, and expressed gratitude to the United States and WPFMC for their arrangements and hospitality. She also noted that the Hawaiian Oli and the blessings received in the Pule served as significant reminders of the Commission's origins. The Chair then officially opened the 15th regular session of the WCPFC. The full statement of the Commission Chair is in **Attachment C**.

1.1 Adoption of Agenda

12. The Agenda was adopted (Attachment D).

1.2 Statements from Members and Participating Territories

13. The United States welcomed delegates to Hawaii on behalf of the government of the United States and its Participating Territories, noting that representatives present included the Governor of CNMI. On behalf of all members, cooperating non-members and participating territories (CCMs) it thanked the Secretariat staff, local staff of United States agencies, and WPFMC, as well as industry stakeholders (Hawaii Longline Association, American Tunaboat Association, TriMarine, South Pacific Tuna Corp, and United Fishing Agency) who hosted the welcoming function.
14. The Hon. Dennis Momotaro, Minister of Natural Resources and Commerce, and Chairman of the Marshall Islands Marine Resources Authority Board (RMI), noted that he was attending his first annual meeting of the WCPFC, and was eager to see why essential issues at WCPFC meetings are not being resolved. He stated that SIDS are most affected by the issues under discussion and his delegation was ready to engage constructively. He hoped CCMs could come to agreement on a number of critical issues: the need to review transshipments, the CMS process, and participation by small islands developing states (SIDS) and territories. He noted the challenge made by RMI for an IUU-free Pacific by 2023, and the challenge from FSM to institute all electronic monitoring (EM) of fisheries by 2023. He looked forward to meaningful outcomes from WCPFC15.
15. The Hon. Ralph D Torres, Governor of CNMI, stated that in October CNMI was hit by a Category 5 super typhoon that devastated Saipan and Tinian, but emphasized their resolve to rebuild. He thanked the State of Hawaii, federal agencies and the governments from neighbouring islands who provided aid. He stated that such devastation highlights the importance of food security and access to fisheries, and stated that CNMI shares many issues with other small islands, but lacks the capability to institute large-scale fisheries. He expressed interest in exploring how the Commission can help CNMI access benefits from fisheries. He noted the commitment to combatting IUU fishing in Micronesia, which will require assistance from governments and NGOs. He also noted the need for assistance in monitoring fisheries resources and acknowledged the importance of the issues before the Commission.
16. France stated that, regarding the WCPFC-IATTC overlap area, France had drafted a letter of intent to WCPFC and IATTC to indicate its choice to favour WCPFC regulations during the next three years. This choice was motivated by a strong concern for clarification of the conservation and management regime applicable to French Polynesia's vessels in the waters of this shared management zone. He stated that this legal clarification is not intended to call into question France's participation in respect of its commitments to the IATTC. France continued to strongly support the harmonization of control and management rules between the two organizations, stating that it intended to maintain its high standards of control at sea and dockside monitoring. He also called for harmonization of high seas boarding and inspection measures between WCPFC and IATTC to enable more effective action against IUU fishing operations in the area, which faces permanent fishing pressure. France also expressed concern about

management of the Eastern High Seas Pocket (EHSP), ambiguities about its geographical configuration, and the lack of joint data available to neighbouring states and territories. France noted the need for better monitoring of fishing activity in the EHSP, such as through direct transmission of VMS data to Cook Islands, Kiribati and French Polynesia. He also addressed the need for management of drifting fish aggregation devices (FADs) and stated that there were many incursions into New Caledonia's exclusive economic zone (EEZ) in violation of its laws. He noted most of these situations could be easily resolved by a single VHF contact in accordance with IMO resolution A 703, but that many vessels appeared not to monitor VHF channel 16.

17. The Hon. Tetabo Nakara, Minister of Fisheries and Marine Resources of Kiribati, stated that the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (WCPO) connects all members and necessitates their cooperation. He encouraged CCMs to push for adoption of a precautionary approach to fisheries management and noted the need for improved science-based decision making. He congratulated the WCPFC for adopting several critical CMMs and FAD-related measures that have contributed to improvements in the status of tuna stocks, while noting the need to establish harvest control rules, with target reference points (TRPs). He noted that all members can understand why this is difficult and encouraged continued dialogue in search of new and innovative solutions to ensure tuna resources are sustainably managed. He acknowledged that all CCMs have specific interests, while thanking all members for helping take into account the needs of SIDS. He referenced Article 10.3(i) of the Convention, and their experience with the CMS, stating that the new proposed measure by FFA members is based on principles of fairness and efficiency, and hoped it would be adopted by members.
18. The Hon. Marion Henry, Secretary of Resources and Development of FSM noted the many challenges in monitoring fishing in the region, and noted RMI's declaration on IUU fishing, stating that all CCMs should be committed to 100% monitoring coverage to eliminate IUU fishing. He stated that FSM has committed to 100% monitoring of fishing in FSM's EEZ by 2023 and was committed to full transparency through a combination of observer coverage and e-monitoring, which would provide much needed data on fisheries, and provide markets with assurance that catch is legal and sustainable with no slave labour involved. He expressed his hope that this will set the stage for global effort in this regard. He observed that the Commission can enhance sustainability, and reduce bycatch, and hoped that through this effort they can ensure the monitoring of over 50% of the tuna catch. He stated that FFA and PNA members are supportive of this effort. He stated that they had a \$2.3 million funding goal, and that The Nature Conservancy has contributed 10% of this goal. He asked for support from all stakeholders to find the technical and financial resources to put e-monitoring in place throughout the convention area. He also noted FSM's desire to host an annual meeting of WCPFC, stating the importance of making decisions in places where people are most affected.
19. The Hon. Lopao'o Natanielu Mu'a, Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries of Samoa acknowledged the work of the Commission and its decisions that greatly impact SIDS, including Samoa. He stated that on resource-constrained islands, living and non-living marine resources are essential resources, and tuna and other highly migratory species are critically important in providing food security, livelihoods and economic prosperity for Samoa. He noted key areas vital to Samoa and other SIDS. South Pacific Albacore tuna is the target species for Samoa's domestic longline fishery, and a primary source of foreign revenue, food security and livelihoods. Failure to set a TRP for South Pacific albacore would further delay implementation of desired management interventions and prolong economic hardship and reduction in catches in Samoa's fishery. He noted the subsidy support received by some foreign fleets and stated that an appropriate management strategy should be in place to ensure domestic and unsubsidized fleets remain economically viable. He asked CCMs, and particularly those interested in South Pacific albacore, to urgently develop an agreed, robust management arrangement for this species, including progressing with an agreement on various elements of a harvest strategy to reverse declining biomass trends and restore profitability. He noted Samoa is disadvantaged because its EEZ is zone-

locked by the EEZs of other Pacific Island states, which limits its ability to realise its fishing interests and development aspirations, especially opportunities for profitable domestic fleet operations, and also impacts its small artisanal fishery. He stated Samoa is considering exploring development opportunities in the closest high seas areas and asked other members to consider supporting its efforts. He opposed any revision to the tropical tuna CMM that would limit the opportunity of SIDS to participate in high seas fishing until a high seas limit and a fair process for allocating that limit has been agreed to. He noted the combined challenges of collapsing fisheries resulting from increasing fishing effort (including IUU), environmental impacts, and climate change and stated that these challenges threaten the integrity of the oceans and marine ecosystems, and potentially the survival of Pacific Islanders. In that regard, he stated that members should be mindful that the burden of actions to protect the oceans and manage its fisheries resources should not disproportionately fall on SIDS.

20. The Hon. Semisi Taelangi Fakahau, Minister for Agriculture and Food, Forestry, and Fisheries, of the Kingdom of Tonga, encouraged all participants to emphasise the importance of ensuring the sustainable management of tuna resources in the WCPO. He noted Tonga's most important commercial fishery targets bigeye, yellowfin, albacore and other tuna-like species, with albacore tuna dominating the catch composition for many years. He stated Tonga's wish that it would remain sustainable but noted a recent drop in catch rates in its national waters had hampered the fishing industry, affecting exports and the amount of fish available for local consumption. He stated that to maintain the long-term sustainability and economic viability of the tuna fisheries in the WCPO and secure livelihoods for local fishermen, it is important that stronger and more effective fisheries management arrangements for migratory tuna stocks and other species are agreed at WCPFC15. He highlighted the following priorities: (i) establishing a TRP for South Pacific albacore, and establishing management measures for the high seas fisheries; (ii) developing a new CMS that produces fair outcomes for CCMs and promotes and improved compliance, while recognizing the special requirements of SIDS, including by streamlining processes, strengthening capacity and requiring a widely consulted and well informed CMM 2013-06 SIDS impact assessment before a measure is adopted and used in the CMS; and (iii) renewal of the tropical tuna bridging measures, while retaining the additional high seas FAD closure, bigeye longline catch limits, and current purse seine effort limits on the high seas.
21. The Hon. Dr Puakena Boreham, Minister for Natural Resources of Tuvalu stated that Tuvalu believes science-based management is essential if the Commission is to secure the sustainability of WCPFC fisheries, and looked to WCPFC15 to implement the SC recommendations that there should be no increase in fishing mortality of bigeye tuna; and that the fishing pressure in the albacore longline fishery should be reduced to improve its economic viability. She stated that the review of the tropical tuna measure should not allow any relaxation of the controls agreed for this fishery by WCPFC14, and that deliberations on a TRP for albacore must reflect the need to ensure that this fishery can maintain profitability. She also stated that the surface fishery in Tuvalu's waters is very dependent on FADs. She stated that Tuvalu is happy to support proposals to make FADs more environmentally friendly so as to prevent entanglement of marine creatures, and to move towards bio-degradable FADs that do not add to the plastic pollution of the ocean, but that Tuvalu did not want to see changes in the definition of what constitutes a FAD (noting that fish associate with floating objects whether or not they have been deployed by a fishing boat) and do not want to see the limit on the number of FADs deployed by each vessel reduced. She stated Tuvalu was working with their partners in the PNA on other ways of improving FAD management. She also noted that Tuvaluan crew are working on a number of fishing vessels and Tuvalu has long aspired to see more of its people employed on vessels, but that Tuvalu is very concerned at the poor working conditions and low wages paid to crew in some fishing fleets. She stated that if continued this will bring the fishery of the region into disrepute and urged CCMs to support the FFA proposal on working conditions for crew, which despite being non-binding, was an important step.

22. PNG emphasised the importance of fisheries for SIDS and stated that the Commission must encourage adoption of measures that are fair and consistent, and do not place disproportionate burdens on SIDS. He noted the need to take precautionary measures to avoid a decline in stocks, and the need to promote sustainable fisheries that avoid any one member being worse off. He reaffirmed PNG's sovereignty over its domestic waters, stating its wish to ensure measures apply to the high seas and EEZs, and not to waters landward of the EEZ. He noted that PNG was looking forward to hosting WCPFC16 in 2019.
23. The Philippines observed it faces many challenges, and stated its compliance with CMMs is a work in progress, but that with an enhanced policy framework in place, ongoing structural reforms, and significant investments in infrastructure for enhanced fisheries management, it is confident that with the support of the Commission and the continuing cooperation with other CCMs their compliance will continue to improve. He noted that the Philippines's access in high seas pocket No. 1 is limited to 36 traditional catcher vessels. Catches in this area have a significant contribution to the Philippine economy and the food security of more than 102 million Filipinos. He stated that the Philippines intend to sustain the same CMM for the fleet in high seas pocket No. 1 and observed that the same FAD management as is currently in place. Philippine fishing operations in this area have 100% regional observer program (ROP) coverage as well as vessel monitoring system (VMS) coverage, including catch documentation and reporting to the Commission. The Philippines looked forward to collaborating with other CCMs to achieve the priority goals and objectives of the Commission at WCPFC15.
24. French Polynesia stated that, as indicated by France, it has made the choice to apply the rules of the WCPFC in its EEZ and the WCPFC-IATTC overlap area for its fleet, as recommended by the "WCPFC9 decision on the WCPFC-IATTC overlap area", paragraph (a) (iii). French Polynesia has a long history of cooperation in the WCPO as member of the Pacific Community, permanent observer of FFA, and Participating Territory of the WCPFC. French Polynesia expressed its gratitude to France for its support through this process. In choosing to apply the WCPFC CMMs to its activities, it hoped the Commission will make the best decisions to manage the tuna resources and consider the needs of the SIDS and Territories as set out in article 30 of the convention. He noted that French Polynesia has adopted a roadmap for the development of its fishing industry in compliance with the capacity building of the country and the potential of the tuna resources in its EEZ. To strengthen the development of the fishing industry, French Polynesia was certified by the Marine Stewardship Council for its albacore and yellowfin longline fisheries. To maintain this certification status, the tuna resources must be managed effectively on a long-term basis. To this end, French Polynesia expressed confidence that all the parties would reach consensus on the harvest strategies and the relevant harvest control rules and reference points for albacore, yellowfin and bigeye. French Polynesia also expressed concern about conservation of bycatch species, noting that the whole EEZ of French Polynesia is a sanctuary for marine mammals, turtles and sharks; some species of birds, including seabirds, are also protected. French Polynesia stated it is eager to adopt measures to protect those species provided the rules do not constitute a disproportionate burden for fishery development. French Polynesia also welcomed proposals to effectively regulate the use of FADs.
25. Fiji stated that its priorities included South Pacific albacore TRPs, a harvest strategy for tropical tuna, and the CMS. It looked forward to the discussions and said it would provide additional statements outlining their specific interests during the course of the meeting.
26. Australia stated it was a strong supporter of the WCPFC and that the Commission's success is built on the hard work, cooperation and continued goodwill of its members. Australia stated its commitment to making progress on the tropical tuna measure, which is a foundation of WCPFC's success and noted the responsibility to ensure that there are strong controls in place to manage these stocks that are critical to all members, and in particular SIDS. Australia anticipated an energetic discussion on the CMS, noting the need to focus on the commitment to improving compliance and implementation, and continuing to

demonstrate the effectiveness of this Commission. Australia also expressed confidence that the Commission is on the right path towards harvest strategies but that a better pathway was needed for scientists and manager to talk, and voiced strong support for the SC advice to establish a science-management dialogue.

27. The Cook Islands (speaking also as Chair of the Forum Fisheries Committee, and on behalf of FFA members) recognised the Chair's leadership in advancing the Commission's work and looked forward to her continued leadership. She highlighted the following priorities of FFA members in WCPFC15: maintaining the strength of the well-balanced tropical tuna measure; adoption of a meaningful TRP for South Pacific albacore; adoption of a new CMS CMM; ensuring effective participation of SIDS in the decision-making and work of the Commission, which is a key requirement to ensure that the Commission can fulfil its objectives; preventing cruel and unfair treatment of crew on board fishing vessels through passage of a resolution to encourage all CCMs to establish basic minimum labour standards, as a stepping stone to a future CMM; review of the transshipment measure in 2019 to effectively regulate transshipment activities; and enactment of flexible arrangements to enable a periodic reduction in delegation sizes and thereby facilitate the hosting of Commission meetings by SIDS.
28. The Hon. Dalton Tagelagi, Minister for Natural Resources of Niue stated Niue's commitment to ensuring its sovereign rights and aspirations are protected. He stated that although Niue may be the smallest member, it is well aware of its responsibility to ensure resource use is sustainable. Niue looked forward to decisions on three key issues: (i) a TRP for South Pacific albacore; (ii) effective participation by SIDS at Commission meetings; and (iii) establishment of a high seas allocation for the purse seine fishery by 2019, and for the longline fishery by 2020. He noted the need for cooperation to ensure WCPO tuna resources are managed sustainably and reaffirmed Niue's commitment to participating in and contributing to the work of the WCPFC. He noted that by working cooperatively the region could strengthen its fisheries management and contribute to the sustainability of resources for future generations.

1.3 Meeting Arrangements

29. The Commission reviewed the meeting arrangements and indicative meeting schedule, and confirmed decisions made at the Heads of Delegation meeting, held on Sunday, 9 December.

1.3.1 Establishment of small working groups (CNMs, CMR, others)

30. The Commission considered the need for the establishment of small working groups (SWGs) to progress work on specific issues. Ten SWGs were established to consider the following issues: (i) finalization of the provisional Compliance Monitoring Report (pCMR), led by the Technical and Compliance Committee (TCC) Chair; (ii) the draft CMM on CMS under development intersessionally, led by the CMS intersessional working group (IWG) Chair; (iii) the tropical tuna CMM (led by the Commission Chair); (iv) south Pacific albacore TRP (led by Fiji); (v) requests for cooperating non-member (CNM) status (led by Australia); (vi) the TCC workplan (led by the TCC Vice-Chair); (vii) labour standards for crew (led by Vanuatu); (viii) the comprehensive CMM on sharks and rays (led by the Chair of IWG-Sharks); (ix) seabirds (led by New Zealand); and (x) terms of reference for a science-management dialogue (led by the Commission Vice-Chair and Australia).
31. Canada highlighted the range of SWGs that were established and observed the need over the longer term to establish a workplan for the Commission to help focus, organize and prioritize its work. He noted the alignment between this suggestion and the concerns of SIDS with respect to ensuring the ability of members to effectively participate in the work of the Commission.

1.3.2 Hosting arrangements for WCPFC annual sessions hosted by SIDS

32. The Chair opened the discussion on hosting arrangements for WCPFC annual sessions hosted by SIDS by noting that she and the Executive Director considered this to be a priority issue for discussion in light of the decision to change the venue for WCPFC15.
33. Vanuatu, on behalf of FFA members, introduced **WCPFC15-2018-DP15: *Considerations for SIDS to host WCPFC Commission Meetings***, which requests special consideration from the Commission and seeks flexibility, from time to time, to provide the opportunity for smaller island CCMs to host Commission meetings. They noted that the Commission had not adopted guidelines for hosting requirements, and that FFA members would continue to reject such suggestions, as this would effectively prevent some SIDS from hosting Commission meetings. They stated that the ability to host a Commission meeting in the countries that drove the establishment of this Commission is important, and that it is essential that Pacific peoples are provided the benefits derived from hosting delegations. More importantly, it provides an opportunity for those in the national fisheries administrations and domestic industries of SIDS to engage in and learn about the processes and work of the Commission. As such, they requested that CCMs accept that, from time to time, delegations will need to reduce the number of delegates they send to Commission meetings. To do this, they suggested that when a SIDS puts forward an offer to host a Commission meeting and meeting size will need to be restricted, that information on meeting capacity, infrastructure and logistics be provided to the Commission to inform their decision on what kind of actions and considerations each delegation would need to make to reduce their delegation size.
34. The Chair noted **WCPFC15-2018-OP03: *Alternative options to enable SIDS to host WCPFC meetings***, submitted by Pew, WWF, Birdlife, EDF, IELP, ANCORS and IPNLF, and thanked the observers for providing the paper.
35. The United States thanked the FFA and observers for their papers. It acknowledged the desire of SIDS to host meetings and stated it would be happy to explore issues relating to this topic. The United States supported the suggestion that any logistical constraints be made known in advance, which would allow the Commission to make rational decisions on hosting and enable delegations to make appropriate decisions. The United States stated it would hesitate to have firm limits on delegation sizes, and limits on observers, but would be happy to work cooperatively with other CCMs in the future as needed.
36. Japan acknowledged the large size of its delegation of 77 people at WCPFC15 and explained this resulted from Japan's different fisheries (coastal, offshore and long distance) that target various species with different gear types. The large delegation is needed to enable Japan to adequately represent these differing interests and make rapid decisions during meetings. Japan stated that it was sympathetic with SIDS' concerns, but supported the approach taken by the United States in not wishing to make firm commitments at WCPFC15, especially with respect to firm limits on delegation size. Japan noted very strict limits (such as a restriction to 10 people per delegation) would not be acceptable to Japan but welcomed future discussions. Japan suggested provision of specific information by prospective host countries (such as the number of hotel rooms, distance from hotel to meeting facility, and number of rental cars and flights) would be very helpful. It noted that it would make its best effort to reduce the size of its delegation if necessitated by limited host country capacity.
37. FSM stated that it was hard for it to withdraw from hosting WCPFC15 as originally planned but understood that large delegations have interests in ensuring their participation. FSM thanked all CCMs and observers who were cooperating in trying to find solutions. They noted the realities of insufficient car rentals, hotel rooms, and other facilities, but stated that decisions made in the meetings affect SIDS.

It noted that FFA had submitted **WCPFC15-2018-DP27: Proposal to Amend the Rules of Procedures – Rule 36** as a proposed amendment to rules of procedure, which would apply to all observers, and have the effect of removing the accreditation of any organization that does not participate for at least 3 years in one of the regular meetings of the Commission or its subsidiary bodies.

38. Chinese Taipei recognized the aspirations of SIDS to host meetings but stated that it was not in favour of limits on delegation size, and preferred that each delegation should determine its own size. It thanked the NGOs for submitting **WCPFC15-2018-OP03**, and expressed support for idea of co-hosting arrangements.
39. Korea thanked FFA and the observers for submitting papers. Korea stated that it fully understands the concerns raised by SIDS, and would need to reflect on limits to the number of delegates. It observed that some countries may need larger delegations than others, either because of language difficulties or interests at stake. It stated that it would be helpful to have suggestions from SIDS regarding delegation sizes, and looked forward to further discussion on the proposed amendment of the suggested change to the Commission’s Rules of Procedure as submitted in **WCPFC15-2018-DP27**.
40. The EU stated it understood the concerns as expressed by SIDS and FFA members, noting that this was an important issue. The EU fully supported the need for large delegations to make efforts to reduce their size, and suggested hosting by SIDS was in particular an option for meetings of subsidiary bodies of the Commission. It encouraged flexibility by all CCMs.
41. RMI expressed support for the views expressed by other FFA members. It noted that prior to the offer from FSM to host WCPFC15, which did not eventuate, Nauru had proposed hosting a Commission meeting, which also did not take place. RMI stated they would like to ensure that similar situations do not occur again in the future. It indicated that RMI would like to host the Commission meeting, and if it did propose to host, it would present all information required, and asked that all CCMs be flexible to enable RMI to host the Commission in the future.
42. PNG fully supported the FFA proposal, which it observed contained flexibility to allow SIDS that could host large numbers to do so, and those that cannot to be upfront about what is possible. It welcomed further discussion, and noted that PNG has a large delegation, and uses the opportunity to progress work of national interest through bilateral and other meetings.
43. Nauru presented draft language as contained in **WCPFC15-2018-DP30: FFA Members proposed Recommendation under Agenda item 1.3.2**. Following further consultations with members, FFA members proposed a revised recommendation addressing hosting of WCPFC meetings by SIDS.

44. The Commission agreed that when a SIDS or participating territory makes an offer to host a WCPFC meeting which may need meeting size adjustment, that the offer include information on the available meeting capacity, logistics and infrastructure. The Commission will take this information into account when considering offers to host WCPFC meetings and, where needed, CCMs will endeavour to accommodate such constraints, including by reviewing delegation sizes.

AGENDA ITEM 2 — ANNUAL REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

45. The Executive Director introduced **WCPFC15-2018-04: 2018 Annual Report of the Executive Director**, which is a requirement under Rule 13 of the Commission’s Rules of Procedure. He noted that the absence of a strategic plan for the Commission makes reporting on accomplishment of strategic

priorities of the Commission difficult. Consequently, the annual report is structured as a historical account of key developments, achievements and challenges of the Commission and its Secretariat as they pertain to the implementation of decisions and agreements of the Commission. The Secretariat's work programme is largely based on the decisions of the Commission and in accordance with the provisions of the WCPFC Convention. WCPFC14 effectively set the work programme for the Secretariat during 2018, with the main highlight being the adoption of CMM 2017-01. Specific tasks were sanctioned by WCPFC14 to be progressed intersessionally through the IWG meetings on electronic reporting and electronic monitoring (ER and EM) and FAD management options. Other intersessional work were agreed to be progressed through virtual working groups to consider a comprehensive approach for: sharks and rays management (IWG-Sharks); South Pacific albacore management (SPA-VIWG); the continuing review of the CMS and development of a new measure (CMS IWG); the development of a strategic investment plan for the special requirement fund; and access to observer reports and conduct of observers. These were in addition to the routine work in support of the annual meetings of the four subsidiary bodies of the Commission. Key highlights of achievements for 2018 include: timely submission of the report of the Independent Review Panel that reviewed the CMS; successful meetings of the Scientific Committee (SC), Northern Committee (NC) and TCC meetings; timely completion and delivery of the draft CMR; an updated stock assessment for bigeye tuna and stock assessments for South Pacific albacore, Pacific bluefin tuna, North Pacific swordfish, North Pacific shortfin mako shark, silky shark and whale shark; successful convening of the third meetings of IWGs on ER and EM, and FAD options; progress on the work of the IWG-Sharks to develop a comprehensive sharks and rays CMM; and good progress on the work of the CMS IWG, and implementation of the Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction Program (Common Oceans) (ABNJ) and Western Pacific East Asia (WPEA) projects. The Executive Director noted that staff numbers had been relatively stable, and financial affairs were in good order, with an unqualified audit report. He noted the voluntary trust fund contributions (itemized on pp. 8–9 of his report) and thanked the donors. He also noted the contributions made by SPC for scientific services; FFA for VMS services; and the ISC for scientific services for the NC. He acknowledged the presence of the director of IATTC, which is an important relationship because of the shared border and management area with the WCPFC. He also noted relationships with other Pacific regional organizations.

46. Tonga, on behalf of FFA members, thanked the Executive Director and his senior officers for an excellent report. Tonga thanked the Executive Director for placing considerable emphasis on the issue of climate change when he reported in September to the Pacific Islands Forum Leaders in Nauru. It stated that, as clearly articulated by Tokelau in the FAC meeting on 9 December, climate change is the greatest challenge facing all members, and particularly WCPFC's SIDS members, both with respect to the future of their fisheries and their long-term survival. Tonga asked that all Commission members bear this in mind as the meeting progresses, stating that for many FFA member countries, the impacts of climate change are all too real, and it is essential that the Commission does everything it can, both to reduce its carbon footprint and to factor climate change impacts into the ongoing and future management of the key tuna stocks that are so critical to the future wellbeing of FFA members. Tonga stated that it looked forward to working together with members and the Secretariat to strengthen this aspect of WCPFC's work in the years ahead and thanked the Executive Director and the Secretariat staff for their hard work throughout the past year.
47. The EU encouraged active involvement by WCPFC in the Kobe Process among tuna regional fisheries management organisations (RFMOs), suggesting there is much to learn, share experiences and knowledge and discuss with other RFMOs, both at a broad, global level and on an issue-specific basis, including on FADs, where recent progress was made by other RFMOs. The EU inquired regarding a joint workshop with IATTC on bigeye tuna growth, and regarding funding for inclusion of the FLUX standard in WCPFC electronic reporting standards that was earmarked in the 2018 budget. In reply, the Chair noted the Kobe process would be addressed under Agenda Item 13. SPC indicated that IATTC

had invited SPC and other scientists to address bigeye growth at a workshop in January 2019 and that SPC and some CCMs would be taking part. The Secretariat stated that it would provide updates on funding for ER and EM during the meeting, and confirmed that Phase 2 of E-reporting for high seas transshipment reporting to accept data in XML conforming to FLUX standards would be scheduled in 2019 subject to availability of budgetary funds (refer pp. 19 of the report) . The EU asked to be kept informed about the IATTC meeting.

48. The Commission accepted the 2018 Annual Report of the Executive Director (**WCPFC15-2018-04**).

AGENDA ITEM 3 — MEMBERSHIP AND OTHER APPLICATIONS

3.1 Status of the Convention

49. New Zealand, as depositary of the Convention on the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean, presented **WCPFC15-2018-05: *Status of the Convention***. It advised that since its last report in December 2017, New Zealand had not received notification of any instruments of ratification or accession to the Convention.

50. The Commission noted the report on the Status of the WCPFC Convention (**WCPFC15-2018-05**).

3.2 Update on Observer Status

51. The Executive Director referred the meeting to **WCPFC15-2018-06: *List of Observers*** that provided the full list of observer delegations. A statement from the North Pacific Fisheries Commission was provided to WCPFC15 (**WCPF15-2018-OP20**).

52. FSM, on behalf of FFA members, noted that they recognise Article 21 of the Convention, which promotes transparency in the decision making of the Commission. It also noted the various calls made by observers regarding participation in certain areas of the Commission’s work. However, as they have noted previously, they believe that the current process for observer status and participation requires strengthening. Under Agenda Item 1.3.2, FFA members (in **WCPFC15-2018-DP27**) suggested an improvement to the management of observer participation at Commission and subsidiary bodies’ meetings. They also noted their ongoing concern regarding yearly increases in the number of participants, which is making it increasingly difficult for many FFA members to host Commission-related meetings. Considering this issue, FFA members have also suggested the Commission allow for flexible arrangements to enable FFA members to host WCPFC meetings.

53. Kiribati, on behalf of FFA members, noted that at WCPFC13, it was agreed that NGOs are to contribute to the meeting expenses as determined by the Executive Director and pay registration fees. FFA Members requested that the requirements relating to contributions and fees also be applicable to Non-Party Observers. In response to a request for clarification from the United States, the Chair indicated these were State observers as referred to in para.1 a) of **WCPFC15-2018-06**. The United States indicated it would like to have the opportunity for additional dialogue on the issue and would be interested in hearing from the State observers, what their views are, and whether they have a budget for this. In response to a query from Japan, the Chair indicated that only Nicaragua which is applying for CNM status was present as a State observer.

54. In response to queries from the United States regarding the “fishing entity” and the more general question from the EU regarding the proposed amendments to Rule 36 of the Rules of Procedure, FSM indicated that the language in the proposal in **WCPFC15-2018-DP27** was consistent with the Rules of Procedure, and that the intent was to remove accreditation for the purpose of participation, as opposed to being an observer.

55. The Commission noted the updated list of observers to the Commission (**WCPFC15-2018-06**).

56. The Commission agreed to amend Rule 36 of the Commission Rules of Procedure as follows:

*“4bis The Commission will automatically revoke the observer participation of:
(a) any observer organisation, State or fishing entity referred to in paragraph 1 (c), (d), or (e); and/or
(b) a non-governmental organization pursuant to paragraph 4, unless that observer has participated in at least one (1) session of any of the Commission or its subsidiary bodies in the preceding three (3) years, with the three years being a rolling three-year period. The Executive Director shall notify the relevant organisation, State, fishing entity, or non-governmental organization in writing where this rule has been triggered, and observer status revoked, for that organization.*

4ter The automatic revocation of any observer status described in paragraph [4bis] (a) does not preclude that organization, State or fishing entity from reapplying for observer status to the Commission at any time. The automatic revocation of any observer described in paragraph [4bis] (b) does not preclude that non-governmental organization from reapplying for observer status at any time pursuant to paragraph 4.”

3.3 Applications for Cooperating Non-Member (CNM) status

57. The Commission considered applications for Cooperating Non-Member (CNM) status for 2019 in accordance with CMM 2009-11, including recommendations from the 14th meeting of the Technical and Compliance Committee (TCC14). As outlined in **WCPFC15-2018-07: Cooperating Non-Member Requests for 2019**, eight applications for CNM status were received from Ecuador, El Salvador, Liberia, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Thailand and Vietnam.

58. Tokelau, on behalf of FFA members, noted that Mexico has refused to make a commitment to accept high seas boarding and inspection (HSBI), citing that they have no vessels authorised to fish in the WCPO. Mexico is non-compliant with para 11(e) of CMM 2009-11 which expressly requires CNMs to “accept boarding in accordance with Commission high seas boarding and inspection procedures”. They noted that if Mexico has no vessel authorised to fish in the WCPO, there is even more reason to accept boarding to ensure no unauthorised fishing activity occurs by any of its vessels. Additionally, FFA members maintained their full support for the WCPFC11 decision that CNMs are to provide a contribution to the Commission. This is premised on the principle that all participants in the organisation must share the costs of conservation and management of these stocks, and the contribution is 50% of the amount that would be payable if the CNM was a member. They noted that all other CNMs had paid their financial contribution for 2018, as required under paragraph 2(g) of CMM 2009-11, and thanked them for this, but stated that Mexico had not paid their contribution for 2018. For those reasons, FFA members asked that Mexico’s application for renewal for CNM status be denied unless these issues could be resolved during WCPFC15.

59. Nauru, on behalf of the PNA, strongly supported the statement made by Tokelau on behalf of FFA members. It stated that they were no longer prepared to accept the situation where a CNM dictates to

the Commission which CMMs they would adhere to, noting that discretion is not given to them in their duty to cooperate under the UN FSA, and is inconsistent with CMM 2009-11.

60. The United States thanked delegations for raising those concerns. In reply to their inquiry seeking confirmation if a representative from Mexico was present, the Chair noted that Mexico did not have a representative present.
61. Palau, on behalf of FFA members, stated that renewal of CNM status under CMM 2009-11 is conditional upon (a) compliance with measures adopted by the Commission and the fisheries laws and regulations of coastal States in the Convention Area, and (b) compliance with conditions in paragraph 11 of the measure, which includes the acceptance of high seas boarding and inspection. CMM 2009-11 para. 15 is very clear that a CNM that fails to comply with any of the CMMs is deemed to have undermined the effectiveness of the CMM and the Commission must take appropriate action including the revocation of CNM status and non-renewal. They stated that some CNMs have repeatedly been assessed as non-compliant with CMM obligations, and that the Commission must take appropriate action with respect to these CNMs. Further, all CNMs must comply with the requirements under CMM 2009-11, which some are currently not doing. The 2018 provisional CMR identifies that five CNM applicants were rated either non-compliant or priority non-compliant for 2017 activities. The Commission must consider the compliance status of CNMs when considering their applications. Compliance by CNMs with the measures adopted by the Commission is essential, and a clear requirement to participate in the Commission as a CNM. The Commission must take into account CNMs' level of compliance when determining whether or not to renew their CNM status. Finally, they noted it is in CNM applicants' own interest to provide complete and accurate data and information.
62. Samoa stated its view that Mexico's application should be denied, and that it should show a willingness to comply with the CMMs.
63. The Chair noted that as a matter of procedure, the Commission would accept or reject the application, and if accepted, refer it to the SWG to consider participatory rights. She noted Mexico's application was not supported by CCMs in the absence of significant changes. The Chair further noted that TCC had noted insufficient information was available regarding Nicaragua's CNM status request and referred the matter to the Commission. The Chair advised the application could be referred to the SWG for further consideration.
64. Palau, on behalf of FFA, thanked Nicaragua for its interest in applying for CNM status, and noted that this was the first time Nicaragua had applied to be a CNM. In its application, Nicaragua indicated its commitment to comply with requirements under CMM 2009-11. FFA members sought further information on the following: (i) noting that Nicaragua is a member of IATTC and ICCAT, FFA members inquired regarding its compliance status with these RFMOs; (ii) noting it has 7 purse seiners, inquired regarding its vessels' compliance status in the RFMOs in which it fishes; and (iii) asked what type of fishing activities, if other than purse seining, Nicaragua is interested in participating in within the WCPO.
65. Nicaragua stated it was were happy to answer any questions, and that it complies with all rules in IATTC and ICCAT. It indicated its readiness to comply with WCPFC CMMs and offered to give more information to the SWG.
66. PNG, on behalf of FFA members, stated that the decision of the Commission regarding financial contributions by CNMs was very clear. The non-payment of contributions and the lack of commitment to do so has been a subject of extensive discussion at previous Commission meetings. They stated that FFA members will not agree to CNM status for any applicant that has not paid outstanding financial

contributions or is unable to commit to making the contribution for the following year. Additionally, the Commission must take appropriate action for those CNMs that have blatantly undermined any CMMs and any requirement prescribed by the Commission.

67. The United States indicated it would be happy to have discussions regarding Nicaragua's application. Regarding the broader issues, it noted that it did not consider financial contributions from CNMs to be a binding requirement. It stated that States faced a range of considerations in making voluntary contributions. WCPFC rules state that financial contributions are required only from States that are eligible to be members, but a number of CCMs have made it clear they do not wish to consider new members, suggesting CNM applicants should not be required to make financial contributions.
68. The Chair asked the SWG to consider Nicaragua's application, which would be returned to plenary, with the financial contribution considered at that time.
69. Solomon Islands, on behalf of FFA members, stated that TCC14 noted that Panama provided its Annual Report Parts 1 and 2, but that there were reporting gaps requiring clarification. The Secretariat wrote to Panama (letters dated 19 October 2018) identifying the gaps and requesting the provision of additional information 30 days before WCPFC15, while Panama provided additional information on December 8. They noted that Panama was consistently non-compliant in the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation (SPRFMO) for serious violations of its obligations, and it was unclear whether Panama had addressed those non-compliance issues.
70. The Commission agreed to accept the applications for renewal of CNM status in 2019 submitted by Ecuador, El Salvador, Liberia, Thailand and Vietnam. Members deferred consideration of requests from Mexico, Nicaragua and Panama pending further review by the SWG.
71. The SWG considering the CNM participatory rights made the following recommendations, in **WCPFC15-2018-CNM_SWG01: SWG CNM Report (Final)**:
 - i The SWG noted with appreciation the attendance and participation of Ecuador, Liberia, Panama and Nicaragua.
 - ii The SWG agreed to recommend that the CNMs accepted by the WCPFC plenary (i.e. Ecuador, El Salvador, Liberia, Thailand and Vietnam) have the same participatory rights in 2019 as they had in 2018.
 - iii Noting Nicaragua was a new CNM applicant, the SWG asked Nicaragua for further information on its compliance in IATTC and ICCAT, and to outline its prospective interests in the WCPFO.
 - iv Nicaragua submitted documentation, including a letter of good standing from IATTC and evidence that no Nicaraguan flagged vessel was on either the IATTC or ICCAT IUU Vessel List. Nicaragua explained that it was a Member of ICCAT but had no active fishing vessels in its Convention Area. Nicaragua affirmed its commitment to make a voluntary contribution. On the basis of the information provided, the SWG agreed to recommend that the Commission accept Nicaragua's application.
 - v With respect to Nicaragua's participatory rights, the SWG recommends that Nicaragua's participatory rights should be limited to purse seine fishing for one vessel, with no participatory rights for fishing on the high seas for highly migratory fish stocks in the Convention Area. The SWG further agreed to recommend that any introduction of fishing capacity is to be in accordance with paragraph 12 of CMM 2009-11 and CMM 2017-01 or its replacement measure.
 - vi The SWG noted that Mexico had neither attended the Commission meeting nor responded to the Executive Director's letter, and that this made it challenging to assess Mexico's application. Some

members reiterated the importance of accepting a commitment to accept high seas boarding and inspection and a voluntary contribution; while other Members indicated flexibility on these aspects, noting that such commitments can be difficult to make in the absence of a binding treaty-level obligation.

- vii There was no consensus to recommend acceptance of Mexico's CNM status.
- viii The SWG considered Panama's application, noting the TCC's advice that Panama had submitted its Part 1 and Part 2 Reports on time but that there were reporting gaps that could require clarification, and that some CCMs had also noted that Panama is consistently non-compliant in SPRFMO.
- ix Panama explained that it had worked closely with the SPRFMO Secretariat to address its outstanding data and compliance issues.
- x The SWG, with the support of Panama, recommends to WCPFC15 that Panama's application be accepted, and that Panama should:
 - a. Prepare an action plan outlining how it will improve its compliance with WCPFC, including to ensure that relevant data is provided on time and any improvement to its internal procedures necessary to improve its cooperation with WCPFC. This Action Plan should be provided to the Commission no later than the end of January 2019, and circulated to all CCMs;
 - b. Provide all outstanding data no later than the end of January 2019 to the Secretariat; and
 - c. Enhance its engagement with the Secretariat to ensure it can meet relevant reporting requirements.
- xi The SWG agreed that Panama's participatory rights should remain as they were in 2018.

72. The Commission approved the applications for CNM status for 2019 from Ecuador, El Salvador, Liberia, Nicaragua, Thailand and Vietnam.

73. WCPFC also approved the application for CNM status for 2019 from Panama, subject to Panama:

- a Preparing an action plan outlining how it will improve its compliance with WCPFC, including to ensure that relevant data is provided on time and any improvement to its internal procedures necessary to improve its cooperation with WCPFC. This Action Plan should be provided to the Commission by no later than the end of January 2019, and circulated to all CCMs;
- b Providing all outstanding data by no later than the end of January 2019 to the Secretariat; and
- c Enhancing its engagement with the Secretariat to ensure it can meet relevant reporting requirements.

74. Ecuador thanked WCPFC15 for approving Ecuador's CNM application and reminded delegates that Ecuador has been insisting on the need to have a legal and transparent procedure for accession to full membership of the WCPFC. It noted that a change in the CNM application format was implemented by WCPFC13 asking applicants whether they would want to become a full member, and observed that this information had been useless, because no further steps had been taken to set up rules to make this happen. Ecuador stated that the United States presented a discussion paper in 2017 (**WCPFC14-2017-DP18: *Membership process in WCPFC***), which addressed the most relevant elements of the issue, but action has not been taken to develop a procedure to address the issue. It stated that Ecuador has been a

CNM for many years, and that Ecuador and other Latin American and Asian countries had been asking to be full members for several years but had not received an adequate answer. Ecuador observed that the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and the UN FSA state that RFMOs shall not discriminate against any state or group of states having a real interest in the fisheries concerned. It stated that in coming to WCPFC annual meetings year after year and asking WCPFC to address the issue but not being listened to made them feel very much discriminated against as a country and member of the international community. It reminded delegates that following adoption by IATTC of a new Convention in 2003 (The Antigua Convention) several countries including, Belize, Canada, China, and Kiribati — became full members of the RFMO very easily, without impediments. It recalled having heard that the WCPFC is considered unique and stated that while it was sure this was the case, that uniqueness could not contravene specific principles of international law and the WCPFC Convention itself. Ecuador emphasized that the fear that some member countries might feel with regard to accepting new members had no basis, because it was very clear to it that becoming a member would not carry any automatic entitlement for participatory rights different than those it had as a CNM. Ecuador closed by encouraging delegates to set up a transparent framework and conditions for inviting new members, and specifically asked the Commission to accept Ecuador to become a full member.

75. The United States thanked Ecuador for its statement and agreed that the issue of membership was important. The United States noted it had not submitted an update to **WCPFC14-2017-DP18** because there was not a lot of new information available, and the Commission had a very full agenda. It observed there was no apparent way forward, noting that some members obviously view the Commission as closed, while it and other CCMs had a different view. The United States acknowledged that invitations to new membership required consensus and stated it had never suggested that any particular application should be approved, but only that there should be a clear process for application, and an examination of the costs and benefits of accepting new members. It indicated this was only fair to other members of the international community that had asked to be considered for membership. The United States indicated it would be happy to discuss the issue intersessionally.
76. Tuvalu, on behalf of FFA members, reiterated that the application for CNM status is not a stepping stone to becoming a full member of the WCPFC.
77. The EU expressed agreement with the intervention from Ecuador. It stated that according to UNCLOS and the UN FSA, countries with fishing interests for highly migratory species in the region had the right to become full members of the WCPFC, and to refuse membership the WCPFC would need to have good reasons. The EU stated the WCPFC risked having a case presented to the International Tribunal on the Law of the Sea, which would not be good for the Commission.
78. Canada encouraged holding a dialog as suggested by the United States.
79. Palau, on behalf of PNA, stated that new members must be invited by consensus. It stated that the language had been carefully drafted to reflect the special situation of the Commission, and that they did not see that changing in the future.

3.3.1 Participatory rights of CNMs

80. The Commission agreed to the following limits to be applied to the participatory rights of CNMs (Convention / CMM 2009-11):

- a) In accordance with the WCPF Convention and its conservation and management measures and resolutions, the following participatory rights apply to CNMs for fisheries in the high seas within the WCPFC Convention Area;
- b) In addition, unless otherwise specified below, CNMs may fish in waters under their national jurisdiction or other CCMs' national jurisdiction, in accordance with appropriate bilateral arrangements;
- c) CNMs shall ensure vessels flying their flags comply with all provisions of the WCPFC Convention and the WCPFC conservation and management measures. In addition, CNM vessels will be placed on the WCPFC Record of Fishing Vessels (WCPFC RFV);
- d) CCMs shall ensure that CNM fishing activities that are conducted in waters under their national jurisdiction in accordance with bilateral arrangements are consistent with all relevant conservation and management measures and provisions of the WCPF Convention; and
- e) Renewal of CNM status by the Commission will take into account compliance with the national laws and regulations of any licensing CCM, and all conservation and management measures and provisions of the WCPFC Convention. CCMs shall identify any violations by vessels flagged to a CNM and report on any investigations of such violations to the Secretariat for attention by TCC.

Participatory rights of each CNM in 2019

81. **Ecuador:** The participatory rights of Ecuador for fishing in the WCPO are limited to purse seine fishing, with no participatory rights for fishing on the high seas for highly migratory fish stocks in the Convention Area. Any introduction of purse seine fishing capacity is to be in accordance with paragraph 12 of CMM 2009-11 and CMM 2018-01 or its replacement measure.
82. **El Salvador:** The participatory rights of El Salvador for fishing in the WCPO are limited to purse seine fishing only. The total level of effort by purse seine vessels of El Salvador on the high seas shall not exceed 29 days in the Convention Area. Any introduction of purse seine fishing capacity is to be in accordance with paragraph 12 of CMM 2009-11 and CMM 2018-01 or its replacement measure.
83. **Liberia:** The participatory rights of Liberia are limited to reefer vessels to engage in transshipment activities, and bunker and supply vessels to support fishing vessels in the Convention area.
84. **Nicaragua:** The participatory rights of Nicaragua are limited to purse seine fishing for one vessel, with no participatory rights for fishing on the high seas for highly migratory fish stocks in the Convention Area. Any introduction of fishing capacity is to be in accordance with paragraph 12 of CMM 2009-11 and CMM 2018-01 or its replacement measure.
85. **Panama:** The participatory rights of Panama in the WCPO are limited to the provision of carrier and bunker vessels. Panama's participatory rights also apply to vessels that supply food, water and spare parts to carrier vessels that engage in transshipment activities, provided that these vessels do not engage in activities supporting fishing vessels, including providing and/or servicing FADs.
86. **Thailand:** The participatory rights of Thailand in the WCPO are limited to the provision of carrier and bunker vessels only.

87. **Vietnam:** The participatory rights of Vietnam in the WCPO are limited to the provision of carrier and bunker vessels only.

WCPFC/IATTC Overlap Area

88. In accordance with the decision of WCPFC9 regarding the management of the overlap area of 4°S and between 130°W and 150°W, vessels flagged to Ecuador, El Salvador Mexico, Nicaragua and Panama will be governed by the IATTC when fishing in the overlap area.

89. In accordance with the Data Exchange MOU agreed by both Commissions, fishing vessels flying the flag of a member of either the IATTC or WCPFC shall cooperate with the RFMO to which they are not a member by voluntarily providing operational catch and effort data for its fishing activities for highly migratory species in the overlap area.

90. For the purpose of investigation of possible IUU fishing activities and consistent with international and domestic laws, vessels flying the flag of a CNM that is a Contracting Party to the IATTC will cooperate with those coastal State members of the WCPFC whose EEZs occur in the overlap area by voluntarily providing VMS reports (date, time and position) to those coastal States when operating in the overlap area.

AGENDA ITEM 4 — NEW PROPOSALS

4.1 Marine Pollution

91. Canada presented **WCPFC15-2018-DP02:** *Discussion paper — potential future amendments to WCPFC CMM on marine pollution (2017-04)*, which proposes changes to the measure for consideration (at WCPFC15, or when it is evaluated in the future). Canada suggested modifications to strengthen requirements regarding retrieval and reporting of lost fishing gear by vessels operating in the Convention Area.

4.2 Non-Entangling FADs

92. The EU introduced **WCPFC15-2018-DP01:** *Proposal for amending CMM 2017-01* for the use of non-entangling FADs in WCPFC fisheries.

93. The issue was addressed under Agenda Item 6.3.1a.

4.3 FAD Definitions

94. The United States introduced **WCPFC15-2018-DP03:** *Proposal for a definition of fish aggregating device*, and Korea introduced **WCPFC15-2018-DP17:** *Proposed changes to conservation and management measure 2009-02 on the application of high seas FAD closures and catch retention*.

95. The issue was addressed under Agenda Item 6.3.1c.

4.4 Bigeye Longline Catch Limits

96. The United States introduced **WCPFC15-2018-DP04**: *Proposal on bigeye longline catch limits in longline fisheries: Conservation and Management Measure on Tropical Tunas*, which addresses para. 40 of the measure and proposes an objective method to adjust CCMs' longline bigeye tuna catch limits to account for their respective levels of monitoring and control, particularly with respect to observer coverage levels and at-sea transshipment activity.
97. Korea thanked the United States for its efforts to fight IUU fishing and to submit a plan to improve reliability of data on the longline fishery, while noting the need for further consideration of the issue. Korea noted that the United States faces different conditions than other fishing nations, as it has Hawaii and American Samoa available as fishing bases, and stated that in its view it would be inappropriate to directly link observer and transshipment coverage to catch limits. It suggested the need for further discussion.
98. The issue was considered by the SWG on the tropical tuna measure, refer Agenda Item 6.3.1.

4.5 IMO Numbers

99. The United States introduced **WCPFC15-2018-DP05**: *Amendment to CMM 2017-05 to expand the requirement for IMO numbers*.
100. The issue was addressed under Agenda Item 9.3.3.

4.6 Sea Turtles

101. The United States introduced **WCPFC15-2018-DP06**: *Revisions to CMM 2008-03 Conservation and Management Measure of Sea Turtles* and **WCPFC15-2018-DP07**: *Amendments to the WCPFC Regional Observer Programme Minimum Standard Data Fields*.
102. The issue was discussed under Agenda Item 8.5.

4.7 South Pacific Albacore Target Reference Point

103. Fiji, on behalf of FFA members, introduced **WCPFC15-2018-DP10**: *Proposal for establishing a target reference point for south Pacific albacore*.
104. The issue was addressed under Agenda Item 6.2.2.

4.8 Implementation of CMM 2013-06

105. Cook Islands, on behalf of FFA members, presented **WCPFC15-2018-DP12_rev1**: *Views on the implementation of CMM 2013-06 (CMM on the Criteria for the Consideration of Conservation and Management Measures)*, stating they were pleased to see some improvement in how CMM proponents complete CMM 2013-06 impact assessments, although much improvement in the quality of the assessments was needed, which reflects CCMs' poor understanding of what SIDS considerations are when these CCMs are designing potential measures. They noted that to overcome this, proponents must consult with SIDS, which is a fundamental element of the CMM 2013-06 assessments. Without this input, proponents will not be able to address implementation issues and adequately identify disproportionate burden, which requires collaboration and consultation with SIDS before proposals are submitted to WCPFC. WCPFC15-2018-DP12 (rev.1) seeks to help address this issue; it includes an

annotation of the questions in paragraph 3 of CMM 2013-06 for the SIDS impact assessments, to provide more structured guidance to inform how responses are developed. They hoped the Commission would find this useful to support CCMs in their development of proposals. They stated that genuine consideration of CMM proposals by SIDS requires active engagement, and that FFA members meet every year in October for management options consultations (MOC), which are dedicated to developing and reviewing work that will contribute to the annual Commission meeting, which was an opportune time for consideration of proposals. They thanked CCMs who provided proposals for consideration during their MOC meeting and looked forward to working with others and further enhancing the development and use of CMM 2013-06 assessments.

106. RMI supported the comments by Cook Islands on behalf of FFA, while noting the number of proposals submitted under Agenda Item 4 at WCPFC15 and stressing it would consider CMM 2013-06 and its applicable mechanisms with respect to any proposals under consideration.
107. The United States stated that guidance on how to improve implementation would be useful, but that it had not anticipated it would be formally adopted. It suggested that the delegation paper be noted, or the issues be further developed intersessionally. This position was supported by the EU; it also stated it understood the concerns expressed by FFA and underlined that it always assesses the potential impact of their proposals on SIDS but might face difficulties in exactly determining these impacts.
108. RMI noted CMM 2013-06 continued to be less than effective from the view of SIDS and participating territories, and the guidelines were being suggested to help in implementing the CMM and to help all CCMs meet their obligations; it stressed WCPFC15-2018-DP12 contained guiding questions, not obligations. RMI also thanked Japan for its continuous engagement with SIDS.
109. The EU thanked RMI and stated that it sought to faithfully implement CMM 2013-06 whenever it proposes a measure, and to engage proactively with FFA. It welcomed having the document as a reference submitted by FFA, but not as document to be approved by the Commission.
110. In the ensuing discussions, the Commission explored various ways in which the document could be made available to members for reference.

<p>111. The Commission tasked the Secretariat to include WCPFC15-2018-DP12_rev1 providing FFA CCM views on the implementation of CMM 2013-06, on the webpage that will be established for and dedicated to the Implementation of Article 30 of the Convention.</p>

4.9 Labour Standards

112. Vanuatu, on behalf of FFA members, introduced **WCPFC15-2018-DP13: *Draft Resolution on Labour Standards for Crew on Fishing Vessels***, and stated that Ministers from FFA members had reiterated that human rights abuses on fishing vessels operating in the Pacific must be addressed, and emphasised specifically the need for improved labour standards for all crew, including as part of the ongoing promotion of opportunities for Pacific Islanders working in the fishing industry. They stated the issue had rightly received significant international attention, thanked CCMs for providing constructive comments on the proposal to date, and voiced their appreciation for the support from all CCMs and the Commission to address the issue. They invited other CCMs to engage with FFA members in the margins of WCPFC15 to support progress of this resolution, including suggestions for improvement, and stated they view the resolution as a vital first step to ensure CCMs work constructively together to eliminate all human rights abuses inflicted on crew on fishing vessels. They

noted it was fitting that this was being discussed on the 70th Anniversary of the Declaration on Human Rights.

113. The issue was further discussed by a small working group.

114. The EU stated it fully supported the principles put forward, that these were present in its own laws, and that its vessels fully respected them, but expressed doubts about the legal basis of the WCPFC to adopt a Resolution on labour standards under Article 10(h) of the Convention. This view was supported by Japan, who also supported the concept, but questioned whether the Commission was the proper venue to address the issues and stated it would not support the resolution being converted to a binding document in a future Commission meeting. China thanked Vanuatu for accommodating its concerns during the course of small working group discussions, and stated its belief that the issue should be addressed elsewhere, but agreed to support the resolution because it was not binding.

115. The Commission adopted Resolution 2018-01 on Labour Standards for Crew on Fishing Vessels (Attachment E)

116. WWF, on behalf of IPNLF, WWF, Pew, and BirdLife International, commended the Commission for adopting the Resolution on Labour Standards for Crew on Fishing Vessels. They noted that WCPFC is the first tuna RFMO to consider this issue, and they thanked the Commission for its leadership in progressing fishery worker protections. They stated that human rights and labour abuses occur around the world, including in Pacific tuna fisheries, with stories of fishers being paid less than what they were promised, and stories of fishers being beaten, enslaved, or murdered. They stated that buyers and consumers expect their tuna to be free of human exploitation, and WCPFC has taken an important step in response. They supported WCPFC's initiative in passing the resolution and urged the Commission to consider how to make the provisions substantive and effective.

117. Vanuatu noted the important progress WCPFC had made on many issues, and emphasized the importance of this accomplishment, stating that poor labour conditions and mistreatment of crew cannot be tolerated, and it was essential all crew are afforded their basic human rights. Cook Islands also commended all members on taking a decision to protect the welfare of crew on fishing vessels. Cook Islands stated that the resolution was a first step and it would continue to work on the issue until workers at sea are more effectively protected. Indonesia expressed appreciation to FFA for their efforts and for the leadership shown by Vanuatu on the issue, and echoed Cook Island's view that this marked only a first step in protecting and ensuring the safety of labour at sea.

4.10 Seabird Mitigation

118. New Zealand introduced **WCPFC15-2018-DP16: *Seabird Interaction Mitigation: Amendment of CMM 2017-06.***

119. The issue was addressed under Agenda Item 8.4.

4.11 TCC Workplan

120. The TCC Vice-Chair (RMI) introduced **WCPFC15-2018-DP19: *Update of TCC Workplan.***

121. The issue was addressed under Agenda Item 9.3

4.12 Pacific Bluefin Tuna

122. Japan introduced **WCPFC15-2018-DP25**: *Proposal for amending Conservation and Management Measure for Pacific Bluefin Tuna (CMM2017-08)*.
123. The issue was addressed under Agenda Item 6.4.

4.13 Effective Participation of SIDS

124. Niue introduced **WCPFC15-2018-DP26**: *Proposal to amend the financial Regulations for the effective participation of SIDS*.
125. The issue was addressed under Agenda Item 5.

4.14 High Seas Boarding and Inspection: Authorities of the Fishing Vessel

126. The United States introduced **WCPFC15-2018-DP31**: *High Seas Boarding and Inspection: Authorities of the Fishing Vessel* (originally notified under Circular 2018/74).
127. The issue was addressed under Agenda Item 9.3.5.

AGENDA ITEM 5 — SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS OF DEVELOPING STATES

5.1 Implementation of Article 30 of WCPFC Convention and CMM 2013-07 (SIDS special requirements)

128. The Chair noted that para. 20 of CMM 2013-07 requires an annual review of implementation of this measure, and referenced **WCPFC15-2018-IP01**: *Summary from Part 2 CMM 2013-07 paragraph 19 annual reports (WCPFC-TCC14-2018-11)* and **WCPFC15-2018-DP21**: *Report of the European Union on Article 30 of the Convention and Resolution 2008-01 of WCPFC (EU)*.
129. Japan stated it fully recognized the importance of using the checklist in CMM 2013-06 and would continue doing so. It also stressed that more important is direct consultation with SIDS, where common grounds and differing views could be identified, and gaps filled. It stated it had held a number of intersessional consultations with SIDS, and would continue to do so in the future, and encouraged other CCMs to do the same. It noted it had provided overseas development assistance for infrastructure and capacity development equal to US\$4.1 billion over 2007–2016, which includes fisheries related projects, focussing on conservation and management of highly migratory species and assistance to small-scale fishermen. Japan noted the recent commitment by Prime Minister Abe for additional assistance related to human resource development, including over 5,000 people-to-people exchanges over the coming three years. Established in 2008, the Japan Trust Fund within WCPFC has assisted SIDS with capacity development for fisheries statistics and management. Japan has also provided support for SIDS through the Japan Promotion Fund via Overseas Fishery Cooperation Foundation of Japan (OFCF) so SIDS can use interest from the fund for various purposes. In November 2017 this was renewed until 2027. Japan expressed the hope these projects and funds would contribute to the development of SIDS.
130. The United States stated that it had provided a report related to the agenda item through its Annual Report Part 2. Assistance includes bilateral and multilateral assistance to SIDS-related fisheries as well as assistance through WCPFC, such as voluntary contributions to the SRF. It noted that when looking

through the reports contained in IP01 it was hard to find detailed attachments, making accessing the relevant data difficult. The United States suggested that in the future it would prepare a delegation paper similar to WCPFC15-2018-DP21 and stated it would be happy to provide specific information to other CCMs on request. It also supported the provision of information on a dedicated webpage.

131. The EU stated that although it prepared a report each year, it seemed that it was not being read, because discussions in FAC and at other times seemed to support that view. The EU suggested that in 2019 when the Commission holds discussions in relation to application of Article 30 and related issues that development cooperation provided by members for SIDS directly related to WCPFC be detailed in the annexes prepared by the Secretariat for all members to review.
132. Palau, on behalf of FFA members, stated that the Special Requirements agenda item is always a priority. Embedding and operationalising the provisions of Article 30 across all aspects of the Commission's work requires CCMs to acknowledge and commit to responding to particular issues as they arise. FFA members are pleased with recent work that should provide more structure and responsiveness to how the Commission will support developing state CCMs in meeting their obligations. They directed attention to: (i) ensuring the effective participation of developing States, (ii) facilitating the effective participation of developing States in the work of the Commission, and (iii) ensuring SIDS impact assessments required by CMM 2013-06 are comprehensively developed through more considered and consultative approaches. They looked forward to working with other CCMs in progressing these issues.
133. Nauru supported the comments from Palau and stated that the fact SIDS are overburdened contributed to difficulties in absorbing all information, and to the frustrations highlighted by the EU. Nauru noted this was why it was asking for SIDS support.

5.2 Strategic Investment Plan by the FAC Special Requirements Fund Virtual Working Group.

134. Dr Liz Brierley (Australia), Chair of the SRF-IWG introduced **WCPFC15-2018-FAC_SRF IWG: Report from the Chair of the Special Requirements Fund Intersessional Working Group (SRF IWG) to the Finance and Administration Committee (FAC) of WCPFC**. She briefly reviewed the history of the SRF-IWG and provided an update on the intersessional work of the SRF-IWG in 2018. The SRF-IWG engaged a research assistant (funded by New Zealand), who identified capacity needs of developing states and territories documented through WCPFC processes, and identified funding options available to fill these needs, both within provisions of the WCPFC and externally. The analysis demonstrated that most capacity development needs had associated support mechanisms. Members were asked to rank capacity development needs according to the priority they afforded the need from their national perspective. The responses were then aggregated. Some members felt that, despite access to the SRF, effective participation was inadequately supported by the Commission. She noted that members have differing views as to what effective participation means, particularly with regard to capability. The Strategic Investment Plan (SIP) notes the need for flexibility to respond to the needs of individual countries, and for travel assistance for members to send two participants to Commission meetings. There is also a need for more in-country capacity building and support that does not remove people from their work. The SIP also documents capacity building needs documented in the TCC CMR, and WCPFC Part 2 Annual Reports. She stated the Commission should consider whether capacity development needs could become public domain data in the future, noting a need for greater transparency in implementation of Article 30. The SIP noted that some members raised the need for a consolidated page on the WCPFC website to record: capacity needs (as detailed in the current SIP); funding options, eligibility and application processes (including references to external funding mechanisms as raised through Annual Part 2 reports and work of the SRF-IWG); SRF funding proposals and SRF project completion reports

for projects under US\$10,000 (enhanced transparency); 2013-06 templates and assessments; and reports by CCMs on implementation of 2013-07.

135. The SRF-IWG Chair noted the need for members to consider three (3) issues: (a) approval of the SIP, and thus whether the Commission would support the participation of two delegates from SIDS at Commission meetings; (b) making capacity needs of Part 2 Annual reports and the pCMR publicly available through a website dedicated to implementation of Article 30; and (c) agreement regarding enhanced transparency mechanisms around implementation of Article 30.
136. Niue introduced **WCPFC15-2018-DP26: Proposal to amend the financial regulations for the effective participation of SIDS**, noting that FFA members remain steadfast in their resolve to ensure the Commission enables the effective participation of SIDS in its work. They stated that ensuring effective and inclusive participation for all CCMs and providing the opportunity for those who need help in doing so, is a priority for FFA members, and in their view is the responsibility of the Commission and all CCMs. Effective and inclusive participation will ensure the Commission can continue developing robust fisheries management arrangements that take into account all members' needs. WCPFC15-2018-DP26 proposes an amendment to the financial regulations to provide support for two SIDS delegates to attend Commission meetings but noted this was simply a starting point. They stated they were open to investigating different avenues, such as the funding proposals provided in the report of the SRF-IWG and recognised that all members needed to approach the issue with flexibility and understanding so that SIDS have the opportunity to build their capacity and capability to engage and participate in the Commission decision-making processes.
137. Tuvalu, on behalf of FFA members, extended their appreciation to the SRF-IWG Chair for her efforts in guiding development of the SIP, which would ensure that the Commission can direct capacity building assistance when and where it is required. Tuvalu noted that the detail of this work would be considered in the FAC, but raised the following points:
- (i) Maintenance of the SIP is not a one-off process but requires the Commission and CCMs to incorporate it in various work streams to update and maintain the relevance of the SIP, in particular, the ongoing need to support developing States in implementing their obligations under the WCPFC.
 - (ii) The SIP should be used as a basis to inform what assistance is required, where the priorities lie, and how these priority capacity building needs will be resourced.
 - (iii) The need to provide support to facilitate effective participation. They stated that **WCPFC15-2018-DP26** was a starting point but recognised that some CCMs may not be comfortable with this approach, and stated they were open to hearing other options, and being flexible on how to achieve this.
138. Tuvalu further stated that building the capability of individuals working in small fisheries administrations is a fundamental responsibility of the Commission, along with ensuring that the small fisheries administrations (which are dedicated to ensuring the Commission achieves its sustainable management objectives) are able to comprehend, engage and participate in, and effectively contribute to the work that culminates in deliberations at annual sessions, such as WCPFC15. The mechanism established by the Commission to do this is the SRF. Tuvalu stated the need to ensure that the SRF is sustainably supported by the Commission to enable it to deliver required capacity building assistance. Tuvalu looked forward to working with other CCMs to propel the SIP as the platform for delivering meaningful assistance.
139. The United States requested clarification on how aspects of the proposals would be implemented. FSM supported the comments made by Tuvalu and agreed that the issues could be discussed in greater

detail. It suggested the need to look carefully at what information is divulged from Part 2 reports, as some must be kept confidential.

140. The Chair observed that all members were likely able to support the principle of transparency, noting that the proposal was intended to support members, while acknowledging the need to understand what information was being made public. She confirmed the SRF-IWG Chair would develop a paper and the discussion on (b) and (c) (in para. 135 above) would then be resumed. On (a), she noted Tuvalu had referenced **WCPFC15-2018-DP26**, and stated that the Commission needed to look at how to fund effective participation, and that the FAC needed guidance as it looks at how to fund this. She observed that SIDS had indicated their needs, and that significant work had gone into developing the IWG outcomes, and that the Commission needed to look at how it would support those needs.
141. Japan indicated it supported the concept of funding a second person and understood there should be at least two people at each meeting, but raised the need for caution, as funding two delegates would increase the budget, and require a larger financial contribution from CCMs. It accepted that FAC needed direction but stated that they could not voice support until it was known how to fund participation by two delegates (e.g. through increased contributions or by dropping some projects), and the associated fiscal and program implications had been determined.
142. The Chair noted the need for general in-principle support from the Commission; following that the FAC could develop options and submit those back to the Commission.
143. The EU observed that the issue is complex. It voiced support for helping to facilitate effective participation and capacity building by SIDS, but suggested that further support be integrated in the SIP, and separate from funding of WCPFC. It noted that the EU has other funds available to support development, but that funds for WCPFC are limited, and the EU's contribution cannot always be increased. The EU noted that the issue was mainly development related and therefore should be preferentially addressed through the instruments available to fund development outside WCPFC. It also noted that Article 30 of the Convention refers to facilitating effective participation, not ineludibly ensuring effective participation, which is already in place and effective participation is not necessarily dependent on the number of representatives from a country; in this context, it observed that at other RFMOs, support was provided only for one person, and that the EU was in some cases represented by only one person. The EU agreed that having more representatives was a benefit, but suggested delegations of one could also be effective. It questioned whether additional funding would in fact support a third representative if a second was already in place, as SRF funds the participation of a second person for some developing states. It also suggested that needs varied among countries, and that for a lesser-developed country the situation would be different than for an emerging economy, although both may be SIDS. It observed that some small country delegations were relatively large and global effective and substantial participation of SIDS is already in place, which should be taken into account. The EU expressed its concern that financial contributions to WCPFC were increasing and noted that the IWG report presents some different options for funding participation of a second person. It suggested the need to set priorities, and see which countries were most in need of assistance for funding a second representative.
144. Cook Islands voiced strong support for the position put forward by FFA members, noting the issue was in fact not as complex as the current discussion suggested. It stated that the Commission is a decision-making body, and at the heart of the Convention is ensuring the effective participation by all members, and that SIDS have articulated what this means to them. It thanked the IWG for its work and noted that it identified several critical issues: numbers; capacity to participate; and being able to attend and participate in all elements of Commission meetings. The Cook Islands stated the need for the Commission to take a decision on principle, and to agree that effective participation means two persons

for each SIDS, while leaving the options for how this could be funded to the FAC, which could reprioritize some funding lines, rather than necessarily increasing individual contributions.

145. Niue thanked the Chair of the SRF-IWG and stated that it was one of the countries that had been advocating for effective participation. It agreed that the SRF was an option but stated that it posed an administrative burden on SIDS and the Secretariat. It supported the statement by Cook Islands and observed that for one person to attend from a country was ridiculous. It stated that effective participation required more than just support for travel, and that it was not possible to compare countries such as the EU and Niue. It observed that having two or three people attend Commission meetings was also part of its continuity and succession plan, and that it needed to be able to be prepared to engage in the working groups. Niue closed by emphasizing the need to have two people at the Commission meetings.
146. Canada thanked the SRF-IWG Chair and noted WCPFC15-2018-DP26. It agreed this is a core element of the Commission's work and noted Canada had made some small voluntary contributions. It expressed the concern that if the Commission agreed to the approach in DP26 (as opposed to flexible funding of the SRF), the result could be that two delegates are funded, in place of possibly other support such as funding one delegate and increasing capacity development. Canada suggested looking at funding SRF but retaining flexibility for how that funding is used.
147. Samoa expressed thanks for the support expressed for the proposal. It noted the small size of its delegation, and questioned what effective participation means, suggesting it was much more than just being at the Commission meeting. It noted the number of working groups, and the difficulty attending and preparing for these, all of which have an impact on Samoa and the Pacific. It noted that the support being discussed was in fact itself insufficient to enable Samoa to effectively participate. Samoa noted the pressure SIDS face, as they lack the budget to attend the meetings, but are forced to make funds available to enable their attendance. It noted that SIDS are home to the fisheries resources that are being discussed by WCPFC. Samoa urged the Commission to fully consider the issues, and understand that while the proposal entailed extra expense, it would help in conserving the region's fisheries resource and making these available to all.
148. Nauru thanked Canada for its support on the issue and observed that the SRF was already funding some additional delegates, but suggested that SRF funding should be used to increase the capacity of SIDS' fisheries departments; in contrast, the funding in question was not developmental, but was to ensure the Commission can conduct its business. It noted that as an alternative it would be possible to implement Rule 1 of the Rules of Procedure, which requires that the Commission has just two meetings per year. Nauru suggested a readiness to look at budget reallocation to find the necessary funding.
149. Kiribati shared the views expressed by other SIDS, and acknowledged the assistance provided by developed states through the SRF and various trust funds, which have provided assistance to Kiribati. It lent its support to the statements of other FFA members, noting that their participation in the Commission meetings was vital, both as members of the Commission, and because much of the fishing activity in the WCPO take place in the waters of SIDS. It noted that it was very hard for SIDS to attend without having sufficient expertise and stated that their contribution has increased annually. Kiribati highlighted that its revenue from fishing constituted a basic contribution to the government's budget, and stated it was happy that this issue was being considered.
150. RMI supported the comments by FFA members and stressed the need to end comparisons with other RFMOs, given the number of WCPFC members that are SIDS for whom these issues are of great importance. It highlighted the number of scientific issues on the agenda, stating SIDS face challenges in monitoring, managing observers, and carrying out other activities, and suggested more support was needed.

151. The United States thanked the SRF-IWG and FFA members for providing DP26 and the views of their delegations, noting it appreciated how important the issue was to members and the Commission, and the broad support for the issue in principle. It noted the progress in building the SRF (to about US\$150,000 in 2018), while appreciating the challenge of adequately supporting the SRF through voluntary contributions alone. It indicated their preference was to provide support through mandatory contributions to the SRF, with priorities then determined. The United States stated that it did want to see how this would affect overall contributions, which could be examined by FAC.
152. The Chair thanked members for their constructive interventions, noting the increased scope and workload of the Commission, which had not been met with an increase in support for all members to participate, and which led to the formation of the SRF-IWG. She surmised that the principle is broadly supported and appreciated the suggestion from Cook Islands that a reprioritization of the budget could be needed. She noted that the issue would be forwarded to the FAC with the provision that support be provided, and allow FAC to consider how this could best be done, with a report back to the plenary by the FAC.
153. Following the adoption of the Report of the FAC under Agenda item 12, and noting that this had considered funding to support the implementation of the Strategic Investment Plan, the Commission agreed to the following outcomes.

154. The Commission approved the 2018 Strategic Investment Plan as a means to target investment to address the priority needs as identified by developing states, including effective participation. **(Attachment F)**. The Commission agreed that this Plan would be updated annually by the Secretariat for approval by the Commission and that the Secretariat would report to the Commission on implementation of the Strategic Investment Plan each year.
155. The Commission agreed to make any capacity assistance needs identified in the provisional Compliance Monitoring Report and in Part 2 reports (as may be agreed by TCC each year to be contained in the Executive Summary of the Provisional Compliance Monitoring Report), public domain data that will inform annual updates of the Strategic Investment Plan.
156. The Commission agreed to make the reports against implementation of 2013-07 (or its successor) contained in Part 2 Annual Reports public domain data.
157. The Commission directed the Secretariat to develop a webpage dedicated to the Implementation of Article 30 of the Convention. The Commission considered that the publicly available website would include the following information:
- Current and historical Strategic Investment Plans
 - Funding options, eligibility and application processes
 - Special Requirements Fund proposals and project completion reports for projects >\$10,000
 - 2013-06 template and assessments to date
 - Reports by CCMs on implementation of 2013-07

AGENDA ITEM 6 — WCPO TUNA AND BILLFISH STOCKS

158. The Chair opened the session by acknowledging the contributions made by Dr John Hampton (SPC) to the work of the Commission, and management of tuna stocks in the region more broadly, noting that he would be stepping down as head of SPC's Ocean Fisheries Programme in the coming year. She observed that his role was hard to summarize but stated that 2018 marked the 30th year he had attended an annual meeting on the status of the region's tuna stocks, and that his sustained contribution from a scientific perspective was peerless.

6.1 General Overview of Stock Status (bigeye, skipjack, SP albacore, yellowfin, Pacific bluefin, NP albacore and NP swordfish)

159. Dr John Hampton (SPC) provided a presentation on Status of Stocks and Fisheries, which represented recent information on the fisheries, focusing on purse seine and longline; the status of key tuna species assessed by SPC (skipjack, yellowfin, bigeye, and South Pacific albacore; and some information on ENSO and the impacts of climate change on tuna stocks. He noted that more detailed information was available in **WCPFC15-2018-IP12: *The western and central Pacific tuna fishery: 2017 Overview and status of stocks***. He noted 2017 WCP-CA tuna catches by species as follows: (i) skipjack (64% of the total catch) was a drop from the highest value, recorded in 2014, and a decrease of 10% from 2016; (ii) yellowfin (27%) was a record catch; (iii) bigeye (5%) was the lowest since 1996; and (iv) albacore (4%) was a record catch. He noted that the bigeye catch was not a significant portion of the total catch but was important in terms of the impact on bigeye stocks. Purse seine effort appeared similar to the level over the last three years. A large increase in purse seine sets on free schools (unassociated sets) was recorded since 2010, and a slight contraction in associated sets since 2011, related to implementation of the FAD closures. Many of the unassociated sets are "skunk sets", with little catch recorded; once that is taken into account, the number of successful associated and unassociated sets is quite similar. There is significant variability in purse seine catch per unit effort (CPUE); FAD closures since 2009 have had a significant effect on bigeye CPUE, which is the goal. Overall CPUE has been reasonably consistent over time, while yellowfin CPUE has been high even during FAD closures. The longline catch has seen relatively equal levels of bigeye, albacore and yellowfin catch, with recent decline in overall levels, but a strong increase in albacore in 2017. There are 2 components to the longline fishery: (i) the tropical longline fishery (20°N–10°S), with catches of bigeye and yellowfin, which recorded reasonably stable catch and effort over the last 10 years. Declines in catch and effort in 2017 may be an artefact of incomplete reporting; CPUE for both species spiked in 2014–2015, but has since returned to more normal levels; and (ii) the southern longline fishery, targeting South Pacific albacore, where catch and effort increased significantly in 2017; CPUE has declined over the long term, but has shown a small increase since 2011.

160. He provided an overview of stock status, noting that spawning biomass depletion was the metric for denoting stock status, and that there had been a long-term declining trend for all species. Three stocks are not near the 20% LRP, while yellowfin is starting to approach that LRP, which would need to be examined in future years; skipjack is trending close to the 50% interim TRP. Regarding the El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO), he noted that the indicators suggest we are currently in a weak El Niño phase, and the median of the NOAA forecast models suggests that this is likely to continue through at least the first half of 2019. Projected climate change impacts show substantial declines predicted for skipjack as the 21st century progresses, and more modest declines for yellowfin and bigeye. South Pacific albacore is actually projected to increase, but with the caveat that there is very large uncertainty in these projections.

161. In response to an inquiry from PNG regarding the increase in the number of skunk sets SPC stated it may be related to unassociated sets made by vessels in response to the FAD closures in effect since

2009 that were made in the absence of much experience in making such sets; he suggested the number of skunk sets may decrease as vessels gain experience.

162. Australia, on behalf of other FFA members, echoed the sentiments expressed by the Chair in relation to the enormous contribution of Dr John Hampton to the Commission and FFA members over many decades, and expressed their thanks. With respect to the presentation, they stated their understanding that the overview was for information but stated that FFA members wanted to draw attention to a number of larger issues raised in the report. These include the fact that the work of the Commission had been focused on bigeye tuna for several years, while currently the tropical tuna stock of most concern was yellowfin, meaning the Commission would need to broaden its focus. They stated that new work would likely need to be focused on better quantifying the catch of small yellowfin in the far west of the WCPFC Convention Area. They welcomed continuation of the WPEA project, and noted the work in progress on reducing uncertainty regarding yellowfin growth. They stated that as long as there were major uncertainties about the status of tropical tuna stocks important to WCPFC CCMs, there could be no weakening of the tropical tuna measure.
163. Samoa, on behalf of FFA members, stated their concern over the South Pacific albacore stock status, and stated that the longline vulnerable albacore biomass is critical to the fishery.
164. The EU noted the value of the presentation on climate impacts despite the large uncertainty of the results. It stated that although all key tuna stocks were within safe biological limits, some other species were assessed with a different conservation status, and suggested that the presentation could include other WCPFC species (e.g., North Pacific bluefin tuna, North Pacific striped marlin), which would ensure that all species raising conservation concerns are adequately considered by the Commission. In response to a query from the EU regarding a decreasing trend in purse seine effort, SPC stated that the reduction was real (not an artefact of the data), and suggested the US treaty and departure of some fleets from fishery likely had an impact.
165. Indonesia asked what factors were driving the increase in South Pacific albacore effort. SPC replied there was some increase in fishing effort by the Chinese fleet, as well as an increase to the far east of the convention area, and around Vanuatu and Solomon Islands; much of the increase was in the high seas, with a spike in effort south of 10°S.
166. China inquired about the portion of the South Pacific albacore catch taken by the troll fishery, and whether SPC conducted the assessment for South Pacific albacore in conjunction with IATTC staff. SPC noted that chartering arrangements had altered over the previous 3 years, and that detailed information was presented in **WCPFC15-2018-IP02: Trends in the south Pacific albacore longline and troll fisheries**. The troll fishery accounts for a catch of some 2,000–3,000mt of albacore per year, much of this around New Zealand; the fish are usually 1–3 years old. Regarding cooperation with IATTC, SPC noted that the last few assessments had been restricted to the WCPFC Convention Area, including the overlap area, but not farther east. SPC stated this was done to provide more targeted advice to the Commission, but that it may be worth doing a Pacific-wide stock assessment, especially because IATTC indicates catches in the EPO may have increased in the last few years.
167. Chinese Taipei noted the climate change impacts on tuna stocks, which projected three species would be negatively impacted, while south Pacific albacore could be positively impacted, and asked about the impact of climate change on tuna migration patterns. SPC stated changes in stocks were a response to weakening of upwelling and currents that take that upwelling to the WPO, with a resulting displacement of stocks to the east. SPC noted there could be some increase (or greater stability) of bigeye, yellowfin and skipjack stocks in the EPO. South Pacific albacore are displaced somewhat to the south, and climate change impacts at 10°–30° S differ from those in equatorial waters, which is reflected

by the projected positive impact on these stocks. It noted there was large uncertainty in the climate change models with respect to changes in dissolved oxygen levels, to which South Pacific albacore are sensitive, and stressed that the projected 50% increase should not be considered reliable at present, noting the need for better resolution of the dissolved oxygen parameter.

168. In response to a query from New Zealand regarding trends in CPUE in the longline catch, SPC stated that yellowfin was a particularly important component in the southern longline fishery, and that it would need to look at this in the stock assessments. It noted that CPUE was relatively low in those areas, and that there were no striking differences in trends over time. SPC indicated it would examine the issue and report back to New Zealand.
169. Dr Shuya Nakatsuka (Japan), Vice-Chair of the Pacific bluefin tuna working group reviewed the status of Pacific bluefin tuna on behalf of the ISC, which is the science provider to the NC, and provided advice to SC. As the 2018 assessment was an update, the basic model construction was the same as that used for the 2016 assessment. Population dynamics were estimated using a fully integrated age-structured model (Stock Synthesis v. 3) fitted to catch, size-composition and CPUE data from 1952 to 2016 (fishing year). Life history parameters included a length-at-age relationship from otolith-derived ages, as well as natural mortality estimates from a tag-recapture study and empirical-life history methods. Nineteen fleets were defined for use in the stock assessment model based on a country/gear/season/region stratification. Quarterly observations of catch and size compositions, when available, were used as inputs to the model to describe the removal processes. Annual estimates of standardized CPUE from the Japanese longline fleets, the Chinese Taipei longline fleets, and the Japanese troll fleets were used as measures of the relative abundance of the population. Based on the diagnostic analyses, the ISC concluded that the model represents the data sufficiently and results were consistent with the 2016 assessment. He noted that ISC had previously assessed the stock to be at a historically low level, but that it was now gradually increasing, with a positive recruitment trend for the last 2 years. Fishing mortality is declining, presumably because of recently adopted conservation measures. The stock status assessment concluded overfishing is occurring and the stock is in an overfished condition based on commonly used reference points. The harvest strategy **HS-02** (Harvest Strategy for Pacific Bluefin Tuna Fisheries) uses the low recruitment scenario until the initial rebuilding target is achieved and average recruitment thereafter, and it has been confirmed that the recent 10-year recruitment is better than that from the low recruitment period (1980–1989). The status quo projection resulted in a 98% probability of achieving the rebuilding target. In summary, the projection results indicate that the initial rebuilding target will be achieved. The 2018 results are more optimistic because of recent good recruitment. In its advice to the Commission, SC14 noted “the current very low level of spawning biomass (3.3% B₀), the current level of overfishing, and that the projections are strongly influenced by the inclusion of a relatively high but uncertain recruitment in 2016. The majority of CCMs recommended a precautionary approach to the management of Pacific bluefin tuna, especially in relation to the timing of increasing catch levels, until the rebuilding of the stock to higher biomass levels is achieved.” (**SC14 Summary Report**, para 266).
170. S. Nakatsuka further stated the North Pacific swordfish 2018 assessment used an integrated model, and stock status was relatively good, with projections undertaken in various scenarios; SC noted the results. For North Pacific albacore no assessment was done in 2018 (the last was in 2017), and SC advice from SC13 is current.
171. New Zealand, on behalf of FFA members, stated it was aware of discussions regarding potential increases in catch limits. While very supportive of the harvest strategy approach, it stated it was also aware of the need for a precautionary approach and stated that catch increases should be considered only after continued positive developments.

172. The EU welcomed the update on the Pacific bluefin tuna stocks, and the more positive outlook, while reminding members that the first rebuilding target was well below any biological reference points adopted for other stocks, and that there was a long way to go in rebuilding the stock. It inquired how uncertainty was addressed for Pacific bluefin tuna, in comparison to approaches used by SPC for tropical tuna species. In reply, the presenter stated that uncertainty is accounted for through variability in terms of catch rate and CPUE, and by using historical recruitment levels; in the initial rebuilding period the low recruitment period is used. Steepness is high but does not affect the future recruitment level in the projection. Japan noted that the approach taken by ISC for Pacific bluefin tuna was highly precautionary as the low recruitment period used (from the 1980s) was below recent recruitment. The presenter stated that SPC provides projections based both on recent recruitment and low recruitment levels for tropical tunas. That used for Pacific bluefin tuna was 30% lower than an average level, and thus assumes a recruitment reduction of 30%. The EU noted the need to keep in mind that tropical tuna species are 50%–100% above maximum sustainable yield levels, while Pacific bluefin is a depleted stock, and thus the management response needs to be proportionate.

6.2 South Pacific Albacore

173. The Commission was provided with **WCPFC15-2018-08: Reference document for the review of CMM 2015-02 and development of harvest strategies under CMM 2014-06** (south Pacific albacore tuna).

6.2.1 Roadmap for effective conservation and management of South Pacific albacore

174. The Chair of the SPA-VIWG introduced **WCPFC15-2018-SPalbroadmap: Intersessional activity report from the South Pacific albacore roadmap virtual working group**, and noted that WCPFC14 adopted terms of reference (TORs) for a South Pacific albacore working group. She noted that a formal review of the measure was not needed because issues with the CMM were well documented. She stated that **WCPFC15-2018-SPalbroadmap_suppl: South Pacific Albacore Roadmap Previous SC, TCC, and Commission Discussions Regarding CMMs 2010-05 and 2015-02** compiled all comments since about 2010. A workplan was included as attachment 3 to WCPFC15-2018-SPalbroadmap and developing it would be the task for the SPA-VIWG over the next months. She stated that it was envisioned that a limit on the overall fishery should be in place as the harvest strategy was developed, with a TRP in place. The workplan contains three workstreams: the harvest strategy, addressing monitoring and reporting gaps, and establishing limits for the fishery. She also referenced **WCPFC15-2018-09: Technical aspects of a potential south Pacific albacore harvest strategy** (prepared by SPC) and noted that SC14 had recommended that WCPFC15 use the working paper to inform the development of the roadmap, and SC14 requested guidance from the Commission on the fisheries to be included, and the potential management control measures for that fishery.

175. Vanuatu thanked New Zealand for leading the intersessional process, and stated it was glad to see agreement on the need for TRPs. It noted WCPFC14 agreed on the need to set a TRP at WCPFC15.

176. China also thanked New Zealand and inquired whether the harvest control rule to be adopted by 2021 should also include a harvest allocation. It suggested that the Commission advise SPC that all fisheries should be controlled by a harvest control rule.

177. The EU stated in reference to **WCPFC15-2018-09** that the focus on the WCPO (as opposed to the entire Pacific stock as is done in the North Pacific albacore stock assessment) could negatively impact the harvest strategy, observing there was a significant increase in albacore catch in the EPO (25,000 tons in recent years). It also raised the issue of the overlap area between the WCPFC and IATTC, where members can make their own decisions about how their catches are allocated. The EU spoke about

empirical and model-based approaches, and suggested these could be useful when used in conjunction, and asked whether current levels of longline observer coverage could impact the development of the proposed harvest strategy. New Zealand stated that the SPA-VIWG would not address which stocks were covered by the stock assessment, but acknowledged the concern, and that SC14 recommended both approaches be used. Observer coverage will help with data, and be beneficial in the long term, but how to do this remains a question. SPC stated that it formerly did a South Pacific-wide assessment, but then focused on the Convention area to tailor its specific evaluations. SPC noted the overlap area was included in the assessment. It stated that it could develop an estimate of implementation error using observer data from the Fiji fleet, where observer coverage is relatively good.

178. China stated that it was premature to adopt an Electronic Reporting standard for South Pacific albacore at WCPFC15 and hoped that Electronic Reporting could be addressed at WCPFC16 in conjunction with a focus on transshipment.
179. The United States thanked New Zealand for spearheading the roadmap for South Pacific albacore. It stated it was very concerned about the management of the fishery, as it is an important backbone to many island economies. It stated much work remained to be done to progress discussion on catch limits and allocation schemes and looked forward to continuing to participate in the IWG to move the roadmap process forward. The United States hoped the process can lead to economically viable fisheries, particularly for its longline fleet in American Samoa and its troll fishery.
180. The Chair noted the need for a roadmap workplan at WCPFC16 and suggested the SPA-VIWG could reconvene later in 2019 to discuss SC15 and TCC15 outcomes. She noted the United States had suggested a focus on longline catch and effort while retaining some flexibility.
181. Cook Islands, on behalf of FFA members, stated that the management control rule that FFA members were likely to ask SPC to test in the Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) for the Harvest Control Rule is catch, although they noted this would be locally translated into national management control quantities for those FFA members that already use effort or other management controls on albacore fishing in their own jurisdictions. FFA would likely recommend to SPC that all fishing gears taking South Pacific albacore should be included as fisheries in the MSE, including the southern albacore troll fishery, while noting that future management action should be commensurate with the impact different gear types have on the stock. They noted FFA members' discussions were preliminary, with no decisions as of yet, and stated that as already agreed, WCPFC15 would adopt a TRP and then work would proceed in the Commission on determining catch and/or effort limits that will help us move towards the target.

182. WCPFC15 tasked the SPA-VIWG, Chaired by New Zealand, to continue work intersessionally to develop the Roadmap for Effective Conservation and Management of South Pacific Albacore.

6.2.2 Target reference point

183. The Commission considered **WCPFC15-2018-10_rev1: Potential target reference points for south Pacific albacore** (prepared by SPC). Fiji, on behalf of FFA members, introduced **WCPFC15-2018-DP10: Proposal for establishing a target reference point for south Pacific albacore**, reminding members that WCPFC made a binding decision to adopt a TRP for South Pacific albacore at WCPFC15. They noted that each year FFA members gave a lengthy explanation of their TRP proposal, trying to anticipate and answer all questions, but that for every question they answer, a new question is raised, usually one that was answered the previous year. They posed the following question of other CCMs:

“What do you expect will be the likely result of taking no effective management action, and what impact this will have on South Pacific SIDS?”, stating that members likely know the answer, and FFA members are not prepared to let this happen. They noted their proposal was based on the best scientific advice and sought to start the Commission on the path towards effectively managing the stock in a way that would provide economic benefits to all participants. They thanked the CCMs that had engaged with them on the proposal and looked forward to the cooperation of all WCPFC members to ensure it is passed by WCPFC15.

184. China thanked FFA for the proposal, noting it had conducted bilateral discussions with FFA prior to WCPFC15. It noted that it supported the consensus at WCPFC14 to adopt a TRP, but stated FFA was now proposing a TRP based on 45% spawning biomass in the absence of fishing, and changing the concept through a focus on CPUE, and limiting the TRP to longline fisheries that target South Pacific albacore. China stated it would pursue the issue through bilateral contacts with FFA and would seek to reach a common understanding.

185. The Pacific Islands Tuna Industry Association (PITIA), on behalf of its members in the South Pacific albacore longline fishery, expressed deep concern that the WCPFC continues to fail in its mandate to respond effectively to dire conditions in the WCPO South Pacific albacore fishery. It strongly encouraged WCPFC15 to come to agreement on the harvest strategy elements they committed to under the Harvest Strategy Workplan CMM 2014-06, including establishing a TRP and developing a Harvest Control Rule for South Pacific albacore. It stated that the most recent stock assessment for South Pacific albacore supports the conclusion that the southern albacore stock is not overfished or experiencing overfishing, but the fishery is in a perilous state. Catch rates simply cannot support current costs, leaving many companies on the brink of financial failure. It stated it is fortunate that the southern albacore stocks are biologically healthy, but the key to economic viability of a fishery is CPUE. It indicated it has observed a continually declining CPUE over several years, diminishing what was once a robust and attractive fishery to a shadow of itself, and said that the inability of the WCPFC to control a massive increase in high seas fishing effort is a sad indictment about this Commission’s ability to manage the fisheries under its charge. It stated WCPFC must take heed of the management advice and implications contained in recommendations from SC10 to SC14, noting the critical importance of the fishery for the fishing industry, their communities, their people and their livelihoods and well-being. PITIA strongly urged the WCPFC 15 to make a decision to ensure the long-term commercial viability and sustainability of the southern longline fishery.

186. Chinese Taipei thanked FFA and noted confusion over the figures. It stated its understanding that a TRP is a starting point, and that when a TRP is adopted the Commission would not take immediate action to reduce effort, but stated the need to know what the impact on effort would be in the future. Chinese Taipei stated that South Pacific albacore has a healthy status. It needed more time to understand a change to a CPUE-based TRP, and noted that such a change (as in **WCPFC15-2018-10_rev1** and **DP10**) shall be reviewed by SC. Chinese Taipei also expressed that it would strive to work with other CCMs as there was agreement by CCMs last year to progress this matter this year.

187. Cook Islands, on behalf of FFA members, stated they envisage a bright future for distant water vessels partnering with FFA members to sustainably fish for South Pacific albacore in their EEZs, and also for developing their own domestic fleets, but stated all those vessels need to be able to catch enough fish to be profitable. They noted the absence of any benefit in a fishery that makes no profit, makes a profit only two years out of five, or requires long-term government funding and subsidisation to stay afloat. They stated that the only way that fishery managers can promote profitability is to manage the stock at a level that maintains good catch rates. South Pacific albacore is assessed as a healthy stock because the stock assessment shows that the total biomass is high, which may be accurate, but the longline fishery does not fish the total biomass, but rather large adult fish, what the SPC calls the

“vulnerable biomass”. There are far fewer fish in the vulnerable biomass than there are in the total biomass. So, as explained in DP10, FFA members propose that the Commission agree on a TRP that will restore and maintain the vulnerable biomass of the stock at 17% above its 2013 level in order to ensure economically viable catch rates in the future. This will set the stage for future work in the Commission, including the setting of limits that will apply in EEZs and in the high seas and the agreement of harvest control rules. They encouraged engagement from other CCMs on their proposal and stated that FFA members were not willing to leave WCPFC15 without agreement on a meaningful TRP for South Pacific albacore that will provide the basis for effective management of the stock by the WCPFC and ensure the economic viability of their fisheries for this important species.

188. The United States voiced support for a TRP for South Pacific albacore that ensures the profitability of Pacific Island fishing fleets, and tentatively supported FFA’s proposal. It noted it was very much in favour of adopting a TRP, but argued that this should be done through the harvest strategies, and not through CMMs, which are for binding actions on individual members.

189. Samoa suggested there are benefits for all with the TRP, stating that if all fish were caught now, no fish will be left for the future, including for distant water fishing nations’ future operations. Samoa noted that SIDS’ fisheries are not subsidized, and stated the need to ensure continuity of fishing.

190. American Samoa stated that the US market for canned albacore is the largest globally, and the American Samoa canneries are one of the major sources of canned albacore. It stated that American Samoa’s domestic longline fishery is almost entirely dependent on the South Pacific albacore stock, and has gone through great changes in the last ten years. In the early to mid-2000s, the fishery was profitable. In 2014, the economics of the fishery were so bad that it was better to tie up vessels in the fleet than to go fishing. Similar conditions were experienced in 2016 then, on average, every hook deployed by the fleet lost money. Several neighbouring domestic longline fleets have suffered similar economic conditions. It expressed the hope that WCPFC15 can adopt a TRP for South Pacific albacore that will lead to catch rates that restore profitability to domestic fisheries while maintaining adequate sources of albacore for processing, recognizing the importance of related impacts and vulnerabilities under Article 30 of the Convention. American Samoa looked forward to cooperating with other CCMs to address these important issues.

191. French Polynesia stated that it supported adoption of a TRP, which it sees as a first step to development of a harvest strategy.

192. China observed that in 2016 the Commission adopted a TRP for skipjack based on biomass in the absence of fishing. It stated that in its view a consistent approach should be taken in setting stock TRPs, and that they were confused regarding the suggested CPUE-based TRP for South Pacific albacore.

193. Vanuatu, on behalf of FFA members, stated that South Pacific albacore is the foundation of domestic longline fishery operations in many FFA member countries and many SIDS are taking steps to improve the management of the fishery within their own waters including through MSC certification. A target reference point for South Pacific albacore is a key first step in the development of harvest control rules, and without progress in this area MSC certification will lapse. This is yet another reason why the Commission needs to follow through on its management commitments this year and agree to the FFA’s TRP proposal.

194. Tonga stated that like other FFA member countries, South Pacific albacore is very important to Tonga. It noted that fish is its primary resource. It reflected on the development of Tonga’s fishing industry and contrasted the current risk of overfishing the Southern albacore stock. It highlighted the high seas IUU fishing adjacent to its waters, and the impacts of climate change, and stressed the

importance for sustainable management of these fisheries. It supported the proposal by FFA member countries, which they stated represents the best way to manage this resource, and stressed the importance of having a TRP approved by WCPFC15, which was being requested by 16 WCPFC members. Tonga sought the support of all member countries attending the meeting to ensure that the South Pacific albacore resource is managed sustainably.

195. EU stated that it is not directly involved in the fishery and could support the principle of a TRP that is based, in part, on economic factors. It expressed doubts about basing it solely on CPUE, but voiced support for the effort in principle. EU noted that SIDS were asking others to reduce their level of fishing effort to enable the fishing effort of SIDS. It acknowledged that some States are more vulnerable but there is also a socioeconomic impact on those who must reduce their effort. In the UN FSA, countries involved must cooperate. EU invited all those involved in the fishery to make a sacrifice.
196. New Caledonia stated that it is very dependent on South Pacific albacore, which accounts for 65% of their catch. It stated it has good catch rates in their EEZ, but that its fleet is suffering from the huge fishing effort in the high seas pockets around its EEZ. New Caledonia supported making progress on the issue.
197. Tuvalu supported other FFA members, noting that a CPUE-based approach has been proposed because this is what determines profit; it also noted that spawning biomass estimates are not as robust for this species as for other species. Tuvalu stated that the discussion was limited to a TRP, and that a later process would address catch levels.
198. Niue supported comments from FFA members and encouraged members to consider WCPFC15-2018-10_rev1, and consult with SPC.
199. Following further consultation, the SWG Chair (Fiji) thanked all CCMs for agreeing on a TRP number, which would be an interim TRP. The SWG Chair acknowledged that FFA members had to give up a lot, but did so in the interest of moving forward and agreeing on a TRP. He stated this had been discussed for many years, and thanked the FFA Secretariat, SPC, and all delegations for their understanding and cooperation.
200. China stated that the 56% TRP for South Pacific albacore was a proposal from FFA, and in consideration to the wishes of FFA and the difficulty that the Chinese tuna industry has to face in the future, if there was consensus amongst other Members to adopt the proposed TRP, China would not block adoption of the TRP.
201. Japan thanked the SWG Chair and supported the proposed language. It stated that Japan catches a very small amount of South Pacific albacore but that it was active in the discussions because it understands the economic difficulties fishermen in FFA members face. It noted that WCPFC16 would look at skipjack, and that Japanese fishermen are facing economic problems because of changed migration patterns of skipjack. Japan hoped these considerations could be extended to the discussion on skipjack to be held in 2019.
202. Samoa, on behalf of FFA, felt very encouraged after the discussions with China and Japan. FFA and ministerial colleagues appreciated the support and concessions and thanked the EU and the United States for their support. They noted that at the ongoing climate change negotiations in Poland (COP 24), their Prime Minister spoke about the ocean and the need to preserve our resources, now and for the future, and stated that the obligations made today would go a long way to conserving our resources for the future. They thanked delegates, the WCPFC Secretariat, and the SWG Chair.

203. Chinese Taipei thanked CCMs and noted that South Pacific albacore is a very important resource to their industry as well. It stated that it understood the importance of this step and said all CCMs must share the burden, which would require sacrifice on their part. Chinese Taipei expressed that it will not join the consensus, but it has no intention to block the adoption of the TRP, noting that there was consensus amongst other Members.
204. The Cook Islands thanked everyone for their hard work and stated that the stock could now be managed for the benefit of everyone, which sends a positive signal to the industry and to Pacific peoples.
205. EU welcomed the compromise achieved. It noted there was a mention that there may be a need for stronger cooperation between the WCPFC and IATTC in relation to managing or working together for global assessment of South Pacific albacore in the EPO and WCPO.
206. The Chair reflected that the outcome reflected what was possible when all members cooperate, even if they all do not agree. She noted that the TRP for South Pacific albacore would be recorded in the harvest strategy section of the Commission webpage, not as a CMM.

207. WCPFC15 agreed on an interim target reference point (TRP) for south Pacific albacore at 56 percent of spawning stock biomass in the absence of fishing ($0.56 SBF=0$)¹ with the objective of achieving an 8 percent increase in catch per unit of effort (CPUE) for the southern longline fishery as compared to 2013 levels.² If a future stock assessment indicates that this interim TRP will not result in the desired longline CPUE, then the interim TRP will be revised in order to meet this objective. The TRP shall be reviewed every 3 years, consistent with the SP albacore assessment schedule.
208. The Commission shall amend or develop appropriate conservation and management measures to implement a harvest control rule, developed in accordance with CMM 2014-06, with the objective of maintaining the south Pacific albacore spawning stock biomass at the target level on average and according to the timeframes specified in paragraph 209.
209. In order to manage the required reduction in catches, the timeline for achieving the interim target reference point shall be no later than 20 years. The Scientific Services Provider is tasked with identifying a range of alternative catch pathways and timeframes that achieve this, for consideration in 2019.
210. In undertaking the assessment identified in paragraph 209 information from all fisheries will be included while noting that any management measures must take account of the impact of different gear types.
211. The Scientific Committee shall refer to the target reference point in its assessment of the status of the WCPO South Pacific albacore tuna stock and in reporting to the Commission on management advice and implications for this stock.
212. Considering that the distribution of the South Pacific albacore stock goes beyond the WCPFC Convention area and the management of this stock is responsibility of both WCPFC and IATTC, WCPFC15 requested the Scientific Services Provider to coordinate with the IATTC scientific staff with the view to consider including the entire South Pacific in future assessments.

¹ The method to be used in estimating the recent average spawning biomass in the absence of fishing shall be the same as that adopted by the Commission for the limit reference point, as described in paragraph 3 of CMM 2015-06.

² The proxy for CPUE will be the southern longline vulnerable biomass as estimated within the stock assessment.

6.2.3 Harvest control rules

213. The Chair noted that the issue would be addressed through the future development of the workplan for the Roadmap for Effective Conservation and Management of South Pacific Albacore (Agenda Item 6.2.1).

6.2.4 Management strategy evaluation

214. The Chair noted that the issue would be addressed through the future development of the workplan for the Roadmap for Effective Conservation and Management of South Pacific Albacore (Agenda Item 6.2.1).

6.2.5 Review of CMM 2015-02 (SP albacore)

215. Two papers were prepared relevant to this agenda item: **WCPFC15-2018-IP03: Summary of CCM reporting under south Pacific albacore CMMs** (Secretariat and SPC), and **WCPFC15-2018-IP04_rev1: An assessment of the number of vessels fishing for south Pacific albacore south of 20°S** (SPC). There was no discussion under this agenda item.

6.3 Bigeye, Skipjack and Yellowfin

216. SPC introduced **WCPFC15-2018-12_rev2: Evaluation of CMM 2017-01 for bigeye tuna, with additional evaluations for skipjack and yellowfin tuna**. The 2018 Harvest Strategy work plan, as updated by WCPFC14, requested that “SC and SPC provide advice to the Commission on the likely outcomes of the revised tropical tuna measure” (CMM 2017-01) against its aim for bigeye that “the spawning biomass depletion ratio ($SB/SB_{F=0}$) be maintained at or above the average $SB/SB_{F=0}$ for 2012–2015”. SPC used the same detailed evaluation approach as used within previous tropical tuna CMM evaluations. Assumptions are made regarding the impact that changes to the FAD closure period and/or high seas effort limits will have on FAD-related effort, and the potential future catches of longline fleets. Under these assumptions, three scenarios of future purse seine effort and longline catch are defined: (i) ‘status quo’ (2013–2015 average fishing levels); (ii) ‘optimistic’ (e.g. CCMs with longline limits take their 2017 catch limit or 2013–2015 average level if lower); and (iii) ‘pessimistic’ (every CCM fishes the maximum allowed under the Measure).
217. Stochastic bigeye stock projections were used to evaluate potential long-term consequences of resulting future fishing levels under each scenario, in comparison to status quo conditions (2013–2015 average), across the 2017 bigeye assessment grid incorporating updated growth information, weighted as defined by SC13 for management advice. SPC noted that the results were strongly influenced by the assumed future recruitment levels. If recent positive recruitments continue into the future, all scenarios examined achieve the aims of the CMM, in that median spawning biomass is projected to increase relative to recent levels, and median fishing mortality is projected to decline (exception being the pessimistic CMM scenario, although fishing mortality remains below F_{MSY}). If less optimistic longer-term recruitments continue into the future, spawning biomass depletion worsens relative to recent levels under all scenarios, and the future risk of spawning biomass falling below the limit reference point (LRP) increases to 24%–40%, dependent on the scenario. In turn, all three future fishing scenarios imply notable increases in fishing mortality under those recruitment conditions, to median levels well above F_{MSY} .
218. The analysis for skipjack and yellowfin was consistent with that for bigeye and made the following assumptions: overall purse seine effort is constant at the 2013–2015 average level; yellowfin longline catch is consistent with that assumed for bigeye, and skipjack longline catch is negligible. Long term

recruitment is assumed. For skipjack, all scenarios result in $SB/SB_{F=0}$ of .47, with 0% chance of being below the TRP. For yellowfin $SB/SB_{F=0}$ is .33 for the 2013–2015 average and optimistic scenarios (with a 7% risk of breaching the LRP); $SB/SB_{F=0}$ is .30 for the pessimistic scenario, with a 16% risk of breaching the LRP. With respect to whether the CMM will achieve its objective skipjack: reasonably ($SB/SB_{F=0} \sim 0.47$), while yellowfin is marginal, given risk, and notably not under the pessimistic scenario (8% reduction in $SB/SB_{F=0}$ from recent levels, 16% risk of breaching the LRP).

219. In response to a query from Korea, SPC clarified that 2012-2015 was used in calculating $SB/SB_{F=0}$, while comparisons were based on the 2013-2015 period.

220. Solomon Islands, on behalf of the PNA, thanked SPC for the excellent work and for including skipjack and yellowfin in **WCPFC15-2018-12_rev 2**. They stated that given the latest stock assessments, there was no longer a need to focus solely on bigeye and so having information available on all three species is vital, and the main messages that PNA take from the projections are:

- For bigeye, the measure is likely to achieve its objectives of stable spawning biomass, but there is certainly no room for increases in bigeye catch or effort.
- For yellowfin, the results are far less positive, and spawning biomass is likely to fall below recent levels in the long term. Of even greater concern is the introduction of reasonably high levels of risk that the stock will actually fall below the limit reference point.
- For skipjack, the projections show that spawning biomass in 2045 will likely be marginally less than the target reference point.

Solomon Islands surmised that the yellowfin and skipjack messages are concerning to PNA as these are the mainstays of PNA economies. They noted PNA countries would need time to explore the full implications, including the new skipjack assessment in 2019, but that at present the projections in combination provided irrefutable support for the FFA position in **WCPFC15-2018-DP08** that any weakening of CMM 2017-01 would be inconsistent with the objectives of that measure and the precautionary approach.

221. Indonesia referenced the tables in Appendix 1 of **WCPFC15-2018-12_rev 2** that relate to the estimation of the optimistic and pessimistic scenarios and inquired how decisions were made regarding these scenarios. It noted that Indonesia was making these comments in light of its views on bigeye tuna longline catch limits, as set forth in **WCPFC15-2018-DP29: Indonesia's bigeye tuna catch limits in longline fisheries**.

222. The EU stated its understanding that the pessimistic scenario assumed that bigeye catch was maintained at a high level although biomass is decreasing, resulting in a very high level of effort, and questioned whether this was realistic. In response, SPC confirmed that the assumption that catch levels were maintained in the future (over the long term) was likely to result in overly high fishing mortality estimates. The EU also noted it would be desirable to present in the tables the outcome of projections over shorter time periods, as was done at SC and that in the future short-term projections are used instead or at least in addition to the long term ones, since the fisheries concerned are assessed quasi-every three years. Regarding management objectives and follow-up on recommendations of SC, the EU stated that in CMM 2017-01 the management objectives in the CMM were based on SC13 advice, which was precautionary because of uncertainty regarding the growth curve. SC14 adopted the growth curve, but advice from SC14 remains the same as it was in 2017 from SC13. EU indicated it would like a rationale for that advice from SC, and would like advice to be more explicit, including when possible different options for the Commission to consider.

223. Japan inquired regarding skipjack, and the future projection for 2045, which projects $SB_{2045}/SB_{t=0}$ will be 47%, or close to 50%. It noted that if the goal is to maintain the ratio at 50%, this result is close, but inquired what the threshold would be at which it could be considered that the spawning biomass was being maintained “at around 50%”. Japan noted that depending on the specifics, the Commission would likely want to recommend some deviation centred around 50% and asked how great that would be. SPC agreed there was a need to develop a definition of what “around an average” means (how close over time?). Japan stated this would have to be discussed under the harvest strategy.
224. Indonesia inquired whether TRP or LRP was the most important for determining the health of the bigeye stock. SPC noted this would be addressed in the discussion on TRPs.

6.3.1 Review of CMM 2017-01 (bigeye, skipjack, yellowfin)

225. The Chair noted that a number of reference documents were prepared for WCPFC15, including **WCPFC15-2018-11**: *Reference document for the review of CMM 2017-01 and development of harvest strategies under CMM 2014-06 (bigeye, yellowfin and skipjack tuna)*; **WCPFC15-2018-IP05**: *Summary of the reports received under tropical tuna CMMs - from 2017 to 2018* (update of TCC14-IP07); **WCPFC15-2018-IP06**: *Catch and effort tables on tropical tuna CMMs - prepared by SPC-OFP* (update of TCC14-IP08); and **WCPFC15-2018-IP11**: *Summary of Notifications to WCPFC of Charter, Lease or other mechanisms*. The Report of the FAD Management Options Intersessional Working Group (**WCPFC15-2018-FADMO-IWG**) and the various delegation proposals were noted to be relevant to the discussions and were considered by the tropical tuna CMM SWG. She noted that CMM 2017-01 had five provisions that were expiring in 2018. One, relating to the Cook Islands did not need to be considered for extension. The others were considered under this agenda item.

6.3.1.a Para 19 of CMM 2017-01

226. The EU introduced **WCPFC15-2018-DP01**: *Proposal for amending CMM 2017-01 for the use of non-entangling FADs in WCPFC fisheries*, which proposes amendments to 2017-01 specifying that FADs to be deployed in the Convention Area be built using non-entangling materials, with a view to decreasing entanglement of sharks, sea turtles and other species. It also directs SC and TCC to work to develop biodegradable FAD designs by 2020. In response to a query from Korea regarding the impacts on catch of target species through the use of non-entangling FADs, the EU stated that its fleet was already using the designs in other fisheries, and its research revealed there was no impact. Responding to a question from Japan on the inclusion of biodegradable FADs in the proposal, the EU clarified that in its proposed text, biodegradable FADs were not considered but its inclusion was, in fact, suggested in a paper submitted by FFA, which could be supported by the EU and incorporated in the final text if all members agree.
227. Following discussion in the margins of WCPFC15, the EU reviewed proposed changes to their proposal. As a compromise the updated proposal introduced, as a first step, the low risk entangling FADs. During the ensuing discussion France underlined the importance of adapting the best available standards for FADs, the need for WCPFC to contribute to the Kobe Process joint working group on FADs, and congratulated SPC for its work in monitoring drifting FADs in the Pacific. FSM stated that the PNA were moving to adopt a requirement for fully non-entangling FADs that will apply in all PNA EEZs in the future.
228. Members discussed the desirability and difficulties of applying the measure to drifting FADs, and the Chair noted that the measure applied only to WCPFC CCMs. Some CCMs highlighted the importance of addressing drifting FADs, and of ensuring fleets operating within the WCPFC

Convention Area complied with the standards set by the Commission, while the United States raised the potential compliance difficulties faced by its vessels fishing in both the WCPFC Convention Area and the adjacent IATTC waters.

229. Following further consultation, the United States observed that the language as proposed was sufficiently similar to that used by the IATTC to enable its vessels to comply with the requirements of both RFMOs, and supported the measure on that basis, while noting that if changes were made by IATTC to its FAD standards it would want to revisit this section of the measure to ensure continued compatibility.
230. The Commission agreed to language for paras. 19–22 of CMM 2018-01.

6.3.1.b Para. 28 allocation process

231. The Chair referred to the text of para. 28 of CMM 2017-01: “*The limits set out in Attachment 1, Table 2 do not confer the allocation of rights to any CCM and are without prejudice to future decisions of the Commission. By 2019 the Commission shall agree on hard effort or catch limits in the high seas of the Convention Area and a framework for the allocation of those limits in the high seas amongst all Members and Participating Territories that adequately take into account Articles 8, 10 (3) and 30 of the Convention. The Commission shall also consider options as to how CCMs would use their limits*”, and noted the need to determine a process for allocations to take place, and enable considerations at WCPFC16. She asked members for proposals including on how the Commission could start discussions in early 2019.
232. Korea stated that the high seas fish effort needed to be adjusted in accordance with Convention Article 8 (Compatibility of Conservation and Management Measures). It noted the need for sufficient time for discussions, and stated that the limits set forth in CMM 2017-01 Attachment 1, Table 2 do not confer any rights to CCMs, and that there was therefore a need to start our discussions without any assumptions. Korea suggested the need for a special session to address allocations in early 2019.
233. Solomon Islands, on behalf of FFA members, stated that workshops should be undertaken to determine high seas allocations, and referenced the discussion in **WCPFC15-2018-DP09: Views on Paragraphs 28 and 44 of CMM 2017-01**. They emphasized the need for preliminary discussions in advance of WCPFC16.
234. Kiribati noted it would participate in any work referred under para 28.
235. The EU stated that discussion on allocation needed a comprehensive approach, and that conversations regarding the high seas needed to also address allocation in EEZs. It noted both needed to be taken into account, and such an approach was in the spirit of cooperation and followed provisions of UNCLOS and the UN FSA; to address the high seas without considering the EEZs would be discriminatory and neglecting the large majority of tropical tuna fisheries.
236. Niue noted that WCPFC15 had made important progress in addressing conservation and management of the fisheries. It noted that implementation of para. 28 must build a framework for the need to adequately take into account artisanal fisheries and stated that WCPFC needed to set aside sufficient time for needed discussions.
237. The Chair stated that Korea suggested a workshop be held in early 2019, and that a discussion on funding had not been held by FAC and might not be possible given the schedule. The workshop duration would need to be 1–2 days. She noted that the wording in para. 28 and work agreed to be done in 2019

was specific. If a standalone meeting was to be held in 2019, funding (possibly external) would be needed. She observed that in the past requests had been made to the Executive Director to explore options, but the meeting would in that case be contingent on securing funding. She agreed it was hard to think about planning another meeting but stated that if work did not begin before WCPFC16, there would be a delay in meeting the timeframes in para 28 of CMM 2017-01. The Chair suggested that WCPFC15 agree that the Commission hold a two-day meeting in early 2019, pending availability of funds, and the Executive Director is tasked to explore funding options and communicate with members intersessionally.

238. Japan stated that it could support the proposed meeting schedule and having it dependent on the availability of funds, but noted the need to determine the TORs, and observed the need to address the comment from the EU. Japan agreed with the need for the Commission to discuss para. 28, but stated there had to be a clear mandate in writing.
239. The Chair agreed that clear directions would be needed and stated she would work with the Executive Director to develop brief TORs, taking into account the comments raised. The WCPFC Vice-Chair subsequently presented draft TORs for a workshop for the framework for allocation for review, noting the objectives were drawn from para. 28 of CMM 2017-01. The Chair invited comments noting the proposal was to have a 2-day stand-alone workshop, dependent on availability of funds.
240. Japan noted that IOTC and IATTC were addressing allocation, but that their approaches were similar to Article 10 of the Convention and did not have a true allocation framework. The EU noted that its previous intervention on this point and stated that it could not address high seas without looking at the situation in the EEZs. The EU noted there was an obligation for members fishing in high seas and coastal States to cooperate in order to ensure effective conservation and management of the stocks, and this should be reflected in the tasks or background of the TORs.
241. Tuvalu expressed a preference to retain wording that focussed on holding a workshop on high seas allocation. RMI agreed with Tuvalu regarding the workshop focus and saw no need to consider processes of other tuna RFMOs. It stated that the workshop would not have a real outcome they could foresee, noting that limits are already in place, and that some members were seeking to reinvent the situation.
242. During the ensuing discussion, members reiterated their positions, with some advocating for consideration of stocks throughout their range, and others seeking to limit the focus to setting high seas catch and effort limits. Japan indicated that it would be conducting bilateral discussions with the PNA and FFA members in 2019, and with the EU and the United States. Japan expressed its willingness to visit any members in the Pacific to have discussions, but not to hold a workshop. It encouraged other members to undertake such direct consultations, which it felt would facilitate the discussions. Indonesia stated its view that it was mandatory to have a workshop, noting that a discussion of the allocation framework would accommodate all these issues raised, including the relationship between high seas and EEZ allocations.
243. The Chair stated that in the absence of an agreement on the task a workshop was unlikely to be productive, and suggested members consider updating para. 28 of the measure with a new target date of 2020. Korea and RMI expressed support for this suggestion and there were no views to the contrary.

6.3.1.c FAD definition

244. The United States introduced **WCPFC15-2018-DP03: Proposal for a definition of fish aggregating device**, noting that the existing definition of FAD was overly broad, as it includes natural objects of any

size, and spoke of the need to adopt a definition of FAD that can be used in all of the Commission's work. It noted that the FAD management options IWG had been working on FAD designs and materials, and in its third meeting proposed minimum guidelines for FADs. The United States proposed to modify the definition of FAD so as to focus on FADs of interest from the standpoint of management and noted the benefits of aligning the WCPFC definition of FADs with the IATTC definition. The United States noted that Korea had a very similar proposal, and suggested it be discussed in the tropical tuna CMM SWG. The EU noted that the proposed definition mentioned only "objects deployed and/or tracked by vessels, for purse-seine fishing operations" and noted that FADs are also used with other fishing gear.

245. Korea introduced **WCPFC15-2018-DP17: *Proposed changes to conservation and management measure 2009-02 on the application of high seas FAD closures and catch retention***, noting its proposal was similar to that of the United States. Korea noted it had been almost 10 years since the current definition of FAD was adopted by the WCPFC, that improvements had been made in CMMs over this period, and that the current definition was overly broad.

246. Following further consideration of the two proposals by members in a SWG, Korea produced new proposed text in consultation with CCMs for inclusion in the FAD closure definition, which comprised a list of materials that should not be considered as FADs in the context of the FAD closure measure.

247. RMI thanked Korea for the proposed language, agreed in principle on the need to examine the issue, and suggested this be looked at in 2019. It noted there were some merits to the proposed list, but that some elements might require further assessment. RMI stated it was prepared to work with Korea and other members, and possibly examine the definition of FADs in 2019, including in the context of PNA FAD tracking.

248. The United States reminded members that two proposals had been submitted on the issue and stated it had been involved with Korea in the discussions and would like to see progress at WCPFC15.

249. Japan thanked Korea for its efforts and expressed support for improving the definition of FADs, but raised the need to look at possible negative effects of changing the definition, and specifically about the potential impact of excluding logs; it suggested the need to look at the entire CMM with respect to the FAD definition, which could have a negative effect on tuna stocks, particularly on bigeye. New Zealand and Cook Islands supported the views expressed by RMI and Japan. Tuvalu also expressed concern regarding log sets and the impact on bigeye stocks. Tuvalu agreed to the issue of vessels setting on FADs when they assume they were setting on a free school should be addressed, but stated it was not yet prepared to develop a new definition. Its position was supported by FSM.

250. Following further consultations in the margins, Nauru, on behalf of the PNA, provided new language for consideration: "*In applying the provisions of paragraphs 16 and 17, any set where small amounts of plastic or small garbage that do not have a tracking buoy attached are detected shall not be considered to be a FAD set for the purposes of the FAD closure. This shall apply in 2019 only and will be reviewed to determine whether it resulted in increased catch of bigeye and small yellowfin tuna.*"

251. The WTPO reinforced its position statements made at WCPFC13 and WCPFC14, which called on the Commission to consider and adopt a more specific and enforceable FAD definition measure. The WTPO proposed defining FAD to mean "anchored, drifting, floating or submerged objects deployed and/or tracked by vessels, including through the use of radio and/or satellite buoys, for the purpose of aggregating target tuna species for purse-seine fishing operations." It noted that using such a definition could help alleviate legal issues and penalties currently faced by vessels for making what they perceive to be unassociated sets.

252. The United States thanked Korea, the PNA and others who contributed to the compromise. It noted that, as expressed by other CCMs, at times its vessel captains claimed to have trouble with FAD requirements, because they establish a set around small natural objects they might not be able to see. It noted the proposal was a one-year measure and hoped that the items Korea listed in its proposal could be considered further in 2019.
253. Japan thanked all CCMs involved and noted for the record that chopsticks were included in the definition of “*small garbage*”.
254. New Zealand stated its reservations about changing the definition, while recognizing the compliance issues raised by other CCMs, and appreciated the efforts to develop a compromise solution. It inquired how it could be determined if the revised definition would result in increased catch. In response to a suggestion from Indonesia to broaden the applicability to all tropical tunas, from bigeye and yellowfin, it noted that FAD closures are technical measures intended to address the catch of small bigeye and yellowfin and preferred retaining that focus. RMI stated that the issue of assessing changes in catch was not considered by the SWG. In response to a question from Australia, SPC noted that in the absence of a clear definition of what “*small amounts of plastic*” or “*small garbage*” represents, data currently collected by observers do not allow straightforward identification of this set type. Hence an assessment of whether the change in the FAD set definition results in an increase in catches of bigeye tuna is difficult. While in the future observers could potentially provide data to assess catch changes, it would require a change to logbook instructions, specific instructions for observers, and clear definitions.

6.3.1.d Expiry of paras. 16, 17, 29, 39 and 56 of CMM 2017-01

255. Members held a discussion regarding expiry of paras. 16, 17, 29, 39 and 56 of CMM 2017-01. The United States thanked the Commission for considering the needs of American Samoa, as addressed by para. 29 of CMM 2017-01. It noted that the territory faces a number of unique challenges and has aspirational and developmental goals but was unable to take advantage of the measures put in place to protect SIDS. The United States noted that one cannery was closed, and another closed temporarily, and that the United States had closed the high seas to its boats on multiple occasions. It noted its strong support for transparent universal measures, stating it would favour a 4-month FAD closure, if other CCMs would agree on this as a potential compromise.
256. Tokelau noted the proposal for a 4-month FAD closure as an alternative to para. 17 of CMM 2017-01 was being made very late, had been examined at WCPFC14, and did not have its support. Cook Islands supported the position expressed by Tokelau. The United States noted the lack of consensus on a core compromise and stated that it remained concerned that para. 17 has a low conservation value, but stated it would allow it to continue for the 2-year duration of the measure.
257. Korea thanked CCMs for their efforts on the issue. It noted that some work remained to refine the definition of FADs, and welcomed the opportunity to work further with CCMs and PNA CCMs in 2019, in conjunction with work on the FAD tracking system. Kiribati thanked the United States and Korea for their efforts to develop a compromise.

<p>258. The Commission agreed to adopt CMM 2018-01 Conservation and Management Measure for Bigeye, Yellowfin and Skipjack Tuna in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (Attachment G)</p>

6.3.1.e FAD management options-IWG report

259. The Commission adopted the report of the FAD Management Options Intersessional Working Group (**WCPFC15-2018-FADMO-IWG03**).

6.3.2 Target reference point (bigeye and yellowfin)

260. J. Hampton (SPC) introduced **WCPFC15-2018-13_rev1**: *Minimum TRPs for WCPO yellowfin and bigeye tuna consistent with alternative LRP risk levels*. He noted that SC14 reviewed information on what would be the minimum setting for a candidate spawning-biomass depletion-based TRP for yellowfin tuna that avoids breaching the agreed LRP with a specified level of probability under the current uncertainty framework (SC14-MI-WP-01). While SC14 noted that the main biological consideration for a TRP is that it should be sufficiently above the LRP, SC14 also noted that the choice of a TRP can be based on a combination of biological, ecological and socio-economic considerations. SC14 recommended that the analyses be repeated for bigeye tuna taking account of the updated 2018 bigeye stock assessment, and with both ‘recent’ and ‘long term’ recruitment assumptions. The additional bigeye analyses are contained within **WCPFC15-2018-13_rev1**, which updates SC14-MI-WP-01. SPC computed median levels of spawning biomass depletion ($SB/SB_{F=0}$) that are consistent with specified risk levels of breaching the limit reference point (LRP) of $0.2SB_{F=0}$. The analysis used:

- the structural uncertainty grid of models used by SC13 for advice from the 2017 yellowfin tuna assessment, and
- the structural uncertainty grid containing only ‘updated new growth’ models used by SC14 as the basis for advice from the 2018 update bigeye tuna assessment, under both the ‘recent’ and ‘long term’ assumptions for future bigeye recruitment, to generate 30-year projections that included stochastic variability in future recruitment under a variety of fishing levels scaled to the 2013–2015 averages.

261. The main results are summarised in Table 1.

Table 1: Median levels of $SB_{2045}/SB_{F=0}$ for the four nominated levels of risk of breaching the LRP.

Risk level	Yellowfin tuna	Bigeye tuna	
		‘Recent’ recruitment	‘Long-term’ recruitment
5%	0.36	0.33	0.38
10%	0.34	0.30	0.34
15%	0.31	0.29	0.32
20%	0.29	0.28	0.29

262. These are values of $SB/SB_{F=0}$ that, if achieved on average, are predicted to result in the specified levels of risk of breaching the LRP, and thus may be interpreted as minimum levels of $SB/SB_{F=0}$ consistent with those risk levels, under the current uncertainty framework. SC14 recommended that WCPFC15 take note of these results in consideration of management objectives upon which any candidate TRPs for yellowfin tuna and bigeye tuna should be based, and in so doing clarify the management objectives for these species (including the selection of risk levels) so that additional work identified by SC14 can be undertaken.

263. Japan agreed that TRPs should be based on both biological and socioeconomic factors. It noted that a paper prepared for SC14 that addressed economic projections suggested the economic index of the longline fishery was declining but would increase for the purse seine fishery. Japan noted this needed to be considered when seeking to balance different gear types.
264. In response to a query from Indonesia, SPC stated that the 2018 bigeye stock assessment update showed a long-term increase in the spawning biomass ratio, but that this did not really influence the current work. It noted the numbers represented minimum targets, and constituted a buffer from the LRP, with specified levels of risk. There are many other issues to consider, including economic aspects and ecological effects, and various parties may have differing views on what is important. SPC noted that rationalizing these issues is a focus of the harvest strategy work now underway.
265. Tonga, on behalf of FFA members, introduced **WCPFC15-2018-DP08: Views of tropical tuna CMM**, setting out their broad management objectives for bigeye and yellowfin under the tropical tuna measure, and to be taken into account in considering TRPs for the stocks. The objectives are (i) to maintain the stocks above levels where there is a very low risk of breaching the LRP consistent with the guidelines in the UN FSA; and (ii) achieve modest increases to $SB/SB_{F=0}$ compared to recent levels in order to support ongoing economic management of the purse seine fishery and facilitate development opportunities for SIDS longline fisheries. They noted the Commission was beginning a discussion that should result in a decision on TRPs in 2019. They noted their preferred objectives for the TRP-setting process and continuation of the current measure through 2019. They noted their objection to weakening of the measure.
266. New Zealand supported the statement by Tonga regarding FFA members' objectives.
267. The EU broadly agreed with observations made by SPC and SC, noting that if stocks remained within safe biological limits, TRPs could be adjusted based on other criteria. It questioned however the pertinence of a precautionary TRP based on a very low probability of breaching a very conservative LRP that is not species specific. It reiterated that the LRP of $0.2SB_{F=0}$ originated with work on demersal species that are far less resilient than tuna stocks, and suggested that species specific LRPs should be developed that take into account the key biological features of the tuna stocks being managed by WCPFC. It indicated that the LRP of $0.2SB_{F=0}$ could not be considered a biological reference point. It reminded that the LRP was decided before the Harvest Strategies concept is developed and that in the light of the new approach all the key elements of a Harvest Strategy should be open for discussion. It also observed that development of TRPs for multi-gear fisheries could not be based on a species-specific approach, in the sense that it might not be possible to achieve simultaneously precautionary TRPs for all the key species in such a complex fishery. EU suggested testing the TRP adopted for skipjack, monitoring the trajectory of other key species and based on this experience consider appropriate and realistic TRPs for other species. SPC stated that Australia's Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) found 20% was an appropriate LRP for productive stocks; less productive stocks would have LRPs of 30%–40%, but most species were fairly resilient. SPC noted the difficulty in discriminating in terms of resilience across species that are fairly closely related from an evolutionary standpoint. SPC indicated the Commission had taken heed of the precautionary approach in choosing an LRP 20%, and that much thought had been given to this.
268. FSM, on behalf of the PNA, supported the FFA position in WCPFC15-2018-DP08 as outlined by Tonga, stating that the proposed objectives for bigeye and yellowfin are relatively consistent with the objectives of CMM 2017-01 but also seek to ensure biological safety through reference to the LRP and to allow for consideration of increases to $SB/SB_{F=0}$ levels. They noted that these proposals were put forward as a starting point for discussions, but that much work was needed before these could be converted into candidate TRPs, including defining what "very low risk" and "modest increases" mean

for short or medium-term management measures. They looked forward to hearing from other CCMs on their objectives for these stocks, and for the fisheries they support.

269. Japan stated, with respect to bigeye and the review of CMM 2017-01, that following adoption of CMM 2008-01, Japan has implemented all tuna measures faithfully, scrapped many vessels, and seen a large decline in catch, with a large reduction in purse seine FADs sets. Japan noted that despite these efforts the situation with respect to bigeye and skipjack was worsening in waters around Japan, with serious impacts on Japanese fishermen, particularly coastal small-scale fishermen, including their catches and cultural activities centred around tuna species. Japan also highlighted that SC14 noted there was a high risk of breaching LRP and zero probability of achieving the objective of CMM2017-01 under the long-term average recruitment scenario. Japan stated that it opposed any weakening of tropical tuna CMMs at WCPFC15.

270. Pew, on behalf of Pew, WWF, Sustainable Fisheries Partnership, IPNLF, ISSF, and EDF, urged the Commission not to weaken the overall impact of management measures in the tropical tuna bridging measure. They observed that WCPFC members have agreed to apply the precautionary approach and stated that the Commission should not agree to a measure that does not meet the scientific advice to maintain bigeye and yellowfin fishing mortality. They noted the somewhat improved bigeye tuna stock status and stated the challenge for the Commission is to maintain this status. Given the high levels of uncertainty with respect to the long-term scenarios for the stock under the current management arrangements, they urged the Commission not to increase fishing mortality, but instead to use this opportunity to carefully consider developing management objectives for the stocks and accelerate development of a long-term harvest strategy for bigeye and yellowfin. They also noted the agenda items with respect to FADs, and urged the Commission to also follow the scientific advice to improve the sustainability of the FAD fishery by adopting science-based limits on FAD deployments and/or FAD sets, and adopting a binding requirement to use FAD designs that minimize or prevent the risk of entanglement, with a clear timeframe to transition to the use of biodegradable materials as soon as possible.

271. The Chair stated that review of the measure would continue in a SWG. She referenced **WCPFC15-2018-DP29: Indonesia's bigeye tuna catch limits in longline fisheries**, which reflects Indonesia's views. She noted the Commission had not yet conducted a thorough review of WCPFC fisheries and management objectives.

272. The outcome of discussions on the tropical tuna measure are under Agenda Item 6.3.1 (see above).

6.3.3 Harvest control rules (skipjack)

273. There was no discussion under this agenda item.

6.4 Pacific bluefin tuna

6.4.1 Review of CMM 2017-08

274. The following reference documents were prepared on this agenda item: **WCPFC15-2018-16: Reference document for review of CMM 2017-08 and for the development of harvest strategies under CMM 2014-06 (Pacific bluefin tuna)**, and **WCPFC15-2018-IP07: Compiled information on Pacific bluefin tuna fishing effort and catch (TCC14-2018-IP12_rev1)**.

275. Japan introduced **WCPFC15-2018-DP25: Proposal for amending Conservation and Management Measure for Pacific bluefin tuna (CMM2017-08)**, which was previously submitted to NC14. It noted a lack of consensus among CCMs at NC14 regarding an increase in catch limits. It stated that at the special session of NC held in the margins of the meeting, consensus was reached on a change to the existing CMM (reflected in DP25) that allows a CCM to carry forward the under catch of a catch limit up to 5% of its initial catch limit, to provide some flexibility regarding catch limits. The same measure was adopted by IATTC earlier in 2018.

276. New Zealand, on behalf of FFA members, thanked the NC Chair, and stated they had no objections to the proposal. The EU noted the presentation on the stock status indicated the condition was poor, and felt the flexibility was not proportional to the stock status. The NC Chair stated that if CCMs could not accept the current draft, it must be returned to NC for its consideration.

277. The Commission agreed to adopt CMM 2018-02 Conservation and Management Measure for Pacific Bluefin tuna, which will replace CMM 2017-08 (Attachment H).

6.5 North Pacific albacore

6.5.1 Review of CMM-2005-03

278. The Chair noted two relevant documents — **WCPFC15-2018-17: Reference document for review of CMM 2005-03 and development of harvest strategies under CMM 2014-06 (North Pacific albacore)** and **WCPFC15-2018-IP08: Updated information on North Pacific albacore effort data (TCC14-2018-IP11)** — and the stock assessment update provided under Agenda Item 6.1.

6.6 North Pacific striped marlin

279. The WCPFC Secretariat prepared **WCPFC15-2018-18: Reference document for the scientific information and development of harvest strategies for North Pacific striped marlin (*Kajikia audax*)** for consideration by the Commission.

6.6.1 Designation as a Northern stock and rebuilding plan

280. The Chair noted that the issue of designation of North Pacific striped marlin and formulation of a rebuilding plan had been before the Commission for several years. WCPFC14 tasked SC14 to provide advice, which it did in the form of proposed criteria that could be used to determine whether this could be designated as a northern stock. A recommendation was made previously for the Commission to adopt a rebuilding plan for the stock, but that has not occurred.

281. The United States confirmed that the issue was a longstanding one but stated that SC14 had provided the needed information. It stated that it did not believe the language in the Convention is vague, but agreed that it could be helpful to formalize the process for designating a “northern stock”. The NC’s purview is stocks that occur mostly north of 20°N, and the United States stated the criteria should be based on where the majority (or greater than 50%) of the stock occurs. The first criteria suggested by SC14 to consider is the proportion of total biomass of the stock occurring north of 20°N; if information is available to suggest that the total biomass of the stock occurring north of 20°N is greater than 50%, then the United States believes that the stock should be designated as a northern stock. For North Pacific striped marlin, the information provided by SC indicates that the proportion of the biomass north of 20°N was estimated to be 2–4 times larger than the proportion of biomass south 20°N; consequently, it should be designated as a northern stock for process reasons. The United States noted its continuing

concern about North Pacific striped marlin and looked forward to a new stock assessment from ISC in 2019, and stated it intended to introduce a rebuilding plan for North Pacific striped marlin in 2019. The United States stated the stock would benefit from the designation, because NC could then begin a discussion on rebuilding and bring a sound recommendation for the Commission to consider.

282. The EU stated that the table provided by SC14 was a useful tool for making such an assessment, but stated there was a need to list the CCMs involved in harvesting the species (directly or indirectly), as not all are members of the NC. The EU inquired whether any subsidiary bodies had taken action for the species, noting the recurring recommendations from the SC, and the continuing circular discussion at Commission meetings. It observed the stock is heavily overfished, and recommended that the Commission recommend that ISC conduct projections, and that based on that advice and recommendations from SC15, WCPFC16 should adopt a recovery plan.

283. RMI, on behalf of FFA members, noted the long-standing debate over whether or not certain stocks, including North Pacific striped marlin, should be designated as northern stocks. They stated that clear criteria for making this determination are still absent, and that while the debate has continued, important stocks are not being managed. They stated the problem was exacerbated by SC not being given the opportunity to properly review the science for the stocks, as assessments are conducted by ISC with no real opportunity for proper review by WCPFC. They stated that the lack of agreement on the designation of the stocks was affecting their proper management and impacting on the reputation of WCPFC and its members. They observed the NC has seemingly become a “Commission within a Commission” with its own science and rules. They opposed designation of any additional stocks as northern stocks, noting that a number of FFA members have an interest in the stocks under discussion and are determined to see them managed effectively by the Commission. They stated they expected stock assessments for the stocks to be presented to SC to allow for comprehensive review by all CCMs, and CCMs having the greatest impact on the stocks to bring management proposals to WCPFC for debate and hopefully approval.

284. Canada agreed that the issue had been tabled many times and appreciated the clarity SC brought to the issue. It endorsed the approach of the United States proposal, which it stated was in line with the convention text and intent, and enabled further action in response to the scientific advice.

285. FSM, on behalf of FFA members, stated that key information to determine whether North Pacific striped marlin is a northern stock is not available, and therefore it should remain as a WCPO stock. They noted the United States has submitted a draft rebuilding plan to NC14 for north Pacific striped marlin, but stated that a full stock assessment needs to be undertaken prior to the establishment of the rebuilding plan to inform the current starting point, the appropriate risk level, and the appropriate rebuilding period. They proposed that WCPFC15 request the ISC to present a new full stock assessment for north Pacific striped marlin to SC15 in 2019 so that Commission members are able to assess the appropriate level of risk and the appropriate rebuilding period to rebuild stocks to $0.2SB_{F=0}$.

286. Japan noted that its colleague from ISC indicated that results of the stock assessment have been provided to SC; the last assessment was performed in 2015, and presented to SC. It stated that it nevertheless seemed that the Commission, as a whole, was less interested than NC members in northern stocks. Japan stated if the species was designated as a northern stock, NC could act, based on the 2019 stock assessment; otherwise the Commission would be facing the same issues in 2019. Japan indicated its wish was not to occupy this stock by NC members, but to focus on conservation and management of the stock.

287. The Chair stated it was unfortunate that the same discussion was repeated each year. She noted any member could provide a recommendation to the Commission, and that there was no lack of data for

anyone to take action. She noted that WCPFC14 had agreed to try and resolve the designation issue, and that SC14 did what was asked, but that the criteria did not help, and inquired whether a rebuilding plan could be developed.

288. The United States stated that it was asking that North Pacific striped marlin be designated as a northern stock because it would raise the priority for NC and require NC to take action. It observed that all NC decisions are brought to the Commission for adoption, and that all stock assessments for northern stocks are reviewed by SC before they are acted upon. The United States noted again the clear information from SC14, and stated that if WCPFC15 declined to designate the stock as a northern stock the Commission should not come back to the issue.

289. The NC Chair acknowledged the frustration expressed by the WCPFC Chair. He noted that when NC advised on species not designated as northern stocks, that advice was typically ignored, and that NC was consequently very reluctant to work on species that had not been designated as northern stocks. The Chair noted that the designation issue was almost impossible to resolve, but that management of the stock, which is the core business of the Commission, has been neglected in part because of the designation question, and stated it needed to be set aside.

290. CCMs held further discussions regarding designation and action on a rebuilding plan. RMI noted it was prepared to work with FFA and others to develop a measure for the stock. The EU agreed on the need to take action, and asked whether NC could be tasked with proposing a rebuilding plan, or SC or SPC should be tasked with this. EU suggested there should be a clear timeline of what is to be done and by whom.

291. The United States reiterated its view that harvest strategies need not be in the form of a CMM, and committed to submitting a draft rebuilding plan for consideration by WCPFC16.

292. The Commission noted that it was unable to agree on the designation of North Pacific striped marlin as a northern stock. The Commission acknowledged that North Pacific striped marlin is experiencing overfishing and is overfished and notes that the ISC work plan for 2018-19 includes completing a benchmark North Pacific striped marlin assessment which will be presented to SC15. The Commission agreed with the concern expressed by SC and NC over the status of North Pacific striped marlin. It accepted the recommendations of SC11, SC12, SC13 and SC14 that the Commission develop a rebuilding plan, and of NC13 and NC14 which “urged the Commission to develop a rebuilding plan for the stock as a matter of priority”. In the absence of any action in response to date, the Commission strongly encouraged those CCMs whose fleets are catching North Pacific striped marlin to submit a draft rebuilding plan to WCPFC16 to provide for the update of CMM 2010-01 Conservation and Management Measure for North Pacific Striped Marlin.

6.7 Others

293. Australia noted the scientific advice and recommendation by SC13, which was confirmed by SC14, on the rapid increases in fishing mortality and declines in spawning biomass between the mid-1990s and 2010 and the subsequent need for stronger management of South Pacific swordfish, including development of appropriate management measures for the area north of 20°S. Australia noted that in the context of those recommendations it considers the current CMM to be relatively weak, with little capacity to prevent further increases in fishing mortality, representing a real risk for the future of the stock. Noting this and SC’s recommendations, Australia stated it would explore further options for improved management of the South Pacific swordfish and would submit recommendations to SC15 and

TCC15 in 2019. It stated it would be mindful of Article 30 of the Convention and the need to avoid disproportionate impact on SIDS.

AGENDA ITEM 7 — HARVEST STRATEGY

7.1 Management Objectives (all stocks/fisheries)

294. The Chair noted that the outcomes of discussions on tropical purse seine fisheries at WCPFC13 and in the “strawman document” were not agreed but were used by SPC as indicative in terms of MSE, and have been included in SC discussions regarding performance indicators. She stated that the management objectives were likely to form part of the proposed 2019 dialog for which TORs are being considered.

7.2 Monitoring Strategy (all stocks/fisheries)

There was no discussion under this agenda item.

7.3 Harvest Strategy for Pacific bluefin, North Pacific albacore and North Pacific swordfish

295. The NC Chair stated that a harvest strategy had been adopted for Pacific bluefin tuna and North Pacific albacore, and these have been adopted by the Commission. The NC is now working on MSEs; workshops have been held for Pacific bluefin tuna and North Pacific albacore. Work has started on a harvest strategy for North Pacific swordfish.

296. The representative of Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Foundation (who indicated it had an interest in the import and distribution of tuna, swordfish and mahi mahi into North American and EU markets) noted its specific interest in North Pacific swordfish and pan-Pacific mahi mahi. It stated that there is a growing market demand for sustainability assurance for all fish products and an imperative to support small-scale fisheries. With regard to swordfish, recognising the progress the Commission has made for the North Pacific stock, it asked the Commission to continue to develop the harvest strategy, but also to urgently implement management reference points for the stock to address the market needs. The same market needs for visible sustainability apply to mahi mahi. It requested the Commission to: (i) ensure all fishery participants are immediately required to provide catch and effort data for this species; (ii) instruct SC to develop an appropriate stock assessment within the next three years; and (iii) in advance of the delivery of the stock assessment, define precautionary management measures based on the results of the productivity-susceptibility analysis reported in **WCPFC–SC2–2006/EB WP–1**. The Foundation noted that all stocks need reference points, but believe these stocks should be prioritised.

297. In reply to a query from the EU regarding financial support needed for the MSE work, the NC Chair stated that financial support was provided by member countries, including Japan and the United States, and that enough resources were available to pursue the work.

7.4 Terms of Reference for a Science-Management Dialogue

298. SPC introduced **WCPFC15-2018-20: Key decisions for Managers and Scientists under the Harvest Strategy Approach for WCPO tuna stocks and fisheries**, noting that the paper provides ideas on decisions managers will need to consider as the harvest strategy process proceeds. It noted the key role of the science–management dialogue was to address cross-cutting issues, enable managers to provide leadership and guidance to scientists, and to facilitate the iterative decision-making process and enable provision of feedback.

299. RMI noted the need to address multiple gear and species fisheries, and to examine principles and practicalities for data collection. It warned against revisiting issues that had already been addressed.
300. The EU suggested that the Science Management Dialogue, at least in the beginning, should not be seen as the forum where the decisions for the key elements of harvest strategies would be decided, but rather as an opportunity for Managers to better understand their role and effectively get involved in the MSE process. That would allow starting a constructive dialogue by focusing initially on non-contentious issues.
301. China stated that it understood the majority of CCMs would like to have a mechanism for a science-management dialogue but stated that participation in this approach in other RFMOs is very low.
302. The Executive Director presented **WCPFC15-2018-21: Terms of reference for a science management dialogue**. He stated that WCPFC14 agreed to reprioritize the agendas for the Commission and SC meetings to provide sufficient time to allow for a discussion of the WCPO harvest strategy, and recognized the need for a dedicated science-management dialogue. The terms of reference (TORs) were developed in response to that recognition by the Commission, and were developed jointly by the Secretariat and SPC, to provoke discussion on two components: consideration elements and consultative draft TORs. Discussions were held at SC14, both in plenary and in a SWG. The TORs in **WCPFC15-2018-21** are a refinement that account for the discussions at SC14. The objectives of the dialogue are to (i) enhance mutual understanding and capacity building, (ii) facilitate the iterative process of harvest strategy decision-making by the Commission and its committees, and (iii) to refine candidate harvest strategy options and forward a reduced number of acceptable candidates to the Commission to increase effectiveness. The key tasks of the dialogue are to review and refine SC outputs on MSE, and make recommendations to the Commission regarding appropriate candidate harvest strategies that meet management objectives for the fishery stocks.
303. SPC outlined Appendix 1 of **WCPFC15-2018-21** to provide an idea of how an initial meeting could be structured, suggesting two days would be appropriate.
304. New Zealand, on behalf of FFA members, thanked the Executive Director and recalled agreement at SC14 that such a dialogue would be useful to help the Commission make use of best-practice fishery management processes, as well as some disagreements on matters of detail. They outlined that FFA members' view was that the first meeting of the science-management dialogue should be a trial — if the subsequent Commission meeting assesses it has not met its probationary objectives, it would be discontinued. They stated the recommendations of the body should carry weight within the Commission, and it should be a formal subsidiary body of the Commission in the form of a Committee under Article 11(6) of the Convention. It would not be a capacity-building workshop, but would make recommendations for consideration by the Commission, and should include a scientific and a management representative from each CCM. They noted the paper suggests the dialogue begin through an informal "capacity-building" session, followed by a formal "decision-making" session, but FFA members feel strongly this should not be a capacity-building process; after four capacity-building management objectives workshops, further learning about the Harvest Strategy Approach should be by implementing it. Other stakeholders should either be included in national delegations, or as observers, and closed sessions should be allowed for any discussions as decided by the committee.
305. Japan expressed no preference whether this should be a subsidiary body or more informal working group, but stated that if it will make recommendations, it should be a subsidiary body. It preferred it be held in conjunction with the annual meeting, because its scientists attend SC, while managers attend the annual meeting. It expressed concern that SPC stated it could not calculate all indicators for skipjack and stated a discussion would have to be held on how these could be calculated.

306. Niue, on behalf of FFA members, supported earlier comments by New Zealand, and stated that in their view:

- a) this would not be a body to filter the output of SC, and SC would continue to report directly to the Commission. This would be a body for generating science-based management recommendations to the Commission, while SC would continue to provide scientific input and answers to questions posed by the Commission;
- b) it should not be restricted to considering only the application of the harvest strategy approach — other aspects of best practice management should also be considered, including the application of the ecosystem approach, and measuring and accounting for social and economic drivers of fishery performance. It could also be useful in advising the Commission on aspects of allocation between CCMs, in their roles as flag States and coastal States;
- c) the dialogue should have a role in reviewing (and possibly developing) harvest strategy measures, and should not affect the right of individual or groups of CCMs to propose measures; and
- d) FFA members feel very strongly it should meet immediately after SC, as clearly explained at SC14. SC should to be shortened slightly to make room for the dialogue to follow, and FFA members have a proposal for doing so.

307. PNG, on behalf of the PNA, supported the comments of New Zealand and Niue, and supported beginning a science-management dialogue in 2019. They noted this could help the Commission to mainstream harvest strategy development in its work. They noted that PNA support for the dialogue is contingent on the meeting happening immediately after SC, in order to optimise efficiency and have the greatest chance of influencing decision making at the following Commission meeting.

308. The EU expressed its general agreement with the principles of the TORs of the working group and voiced a preference to adopt a progressive approach on the science-management dialogue that might start by the constitution of a working group, and which could later evolve to a subsidiary body, if necessary. At the same time, for practical reasons and to contain financial participatory costs related to the participation of managers in this group, the meeting of the working group should be organised back to back to the Annual Meeting, at least in the first stages of the working group. This would facilitate the participation of all relevant stakeholders and enable a smooth start of the working group but could be changed at a later stage to another schedule arrangement when the working group is more organised and according to the needs of the dialogue.

309. The United States voiced general support for establishment of a working group for the harvest strategy. It suggested it could be open to involvement of external experts, and suggested the need for flexibility in terms of its function and size, but stated that the focus should be on the harvest strategy.

310. Chinese Taipei supported having a physical meeting in 2019 to progress harvest strategy development. It suggested the meeting be held as a working group in 2019, and whether or not to form a subsidiary body could be considered in the future. It supported having managers, scientists and stakeholders at the meeting, and stated it should be held one or two days before the annual meeting to be most cost-effective. This position was also voiced by the EU which noted the importance to consider the cost implications.

311. Canada support holding a dialogue that includes fisheries managers, scientists and others (e.g., industry and NGOs). It suggested further discussion was needed on the structure of the body.

312. Korea supported establishment of a dialogue through a working group under the control of the Commission. It noted it could be given authority in the terms of reference to ensure that it can make appropriate recommendations, and suggested it be co-chaired initially by the TCC and SC chairs (with

others possibly elected subsequently to reduce the workload of the TCC and SC chairs). Korea suggested one senior fisheries scientist and one manager should attend for each CCM, as well as other stakeholders, with a two-day meeting to cover the four key stocks. Korea suggested that the dialogue be scheduled in conjunction with the annual meeting and focus on the development of the harvest strategy.

313. The Philippines supported the statements by the EU and Korea.

314. Palau on behalf of the PNA Chair, stated they were only prepared to support the proposed dialogue if it is held immediately following SC. They noted this has been their consistent position since the management objectives/harvest strategy workshop process ceased in 2015, and that the PNA sees no merit in a meeting held in conjunction with the WCPFC annual meeting because delegations then arrive with their national positions already determined. They noted that some key delegations did not participate at the senior level in the management options workshops, making the discussions there useless. Holding meetings late in the year and in conjunction with the Commission presents serious disruption to FFA and PNA member preparation, which they cannot sustain. PNA was adamant the proposed dialogue can only work in conjunction with the SC.

315. RMI, on behalf of the PNA, stated they were relatively relaxed about the formal classification of the dialogue, but that to be effective it:

- should be able to make recommendations to the Commission that have the same weight as issues forwarded by SC and TCC;
- not be simply a capacity building workshop;
- be subject to the normal rules of participation, quorum, chairing and decision-making; and
- have funding for participation by a scientist and a manager from each SIDS.

316. Indonesia supported the proposal for a science–management dialogue, but noted the need for information on the cost implications. The Executive Director provided the following estimates: for a 2-day meeting attached to SC and held in Pohnpei, about US\$85,000. If a stand-alone meeting in Pohnpei, around US\$180,000. If held in conjunction with WCPFC16 in Port Moresby, about US\$98,000. In response to a query from the EU, the Executive Director stated that for a dialogue held after SC, the amount quoted was the cost of an additional ticket to bring in a manager, because the Commission already funds a delegate to SC. For stand-alone meetings the cost is for both delegates. If the dialogue is held in conjunction with the annual meeting the cost is for one additional ticket, hopefully for a national scientist.

317. The Chair summarised that there was broad support for the need for the dialogue to happen, which would focus on development of harvest strategy elements. With regard to the structure, while there was no broad support for a formal subsidiary body, members supported formal status, so it can provide advice to the Commission. She noted the divergence was on the timing. She suggested putting the timing issue aside and focussing on the TORs.

318. Following further discussion in a SWG, Japan stated that while Article 11, paragraph 6 of the Convention allowed for the establishment of subsidiary bodies, including working groups, which can report to the Commission, Japan was unsure whether it can make recommendations to the Commission, or to SC or TCC. The Legal Adviser confirmed that Article 11, paragraph 6 of the Convention provides for the Commission to establish subsidiary bodies and working groups. She noted this was a broad function within the Convention. She stated that a review of past practice in the Commission indicated that intersessional working groups had been established and had provided recommendations directly to

the Commission and also to other subsidiary bodies. She noted the Commission has a fairly broad mandate. Japan stated that while past practice was not strictly speaking legal advice, if the Commission had been doing this, and CCMs supported it, Japan could also support it.

319. The Chair stated that members were in agreement to see how the process would work during the first year, and had agreed on it being a working group, but needed to determine how outcomes are handled, and whether they should be channelled through SC and TCC. Earlier discussions had suggested a separate forum was needed to develop harvest strategy options and if the aim is to advance harvest strategy work, the group needs to have that ability. Currently practice is to establish IWGs that provide recommendations to the Commission, and this proposed process would be similar. The Commission is adopting a long-term approach to harvest strategies but are taking a trial approach for 2019.
320. Canada stated its assumption that recommendations would come to the Commission, and if needed to SC for further advice and analysis.
321. Indonesia stated its understanding that the proposed working group would focus on communications between scientists and managers. It noted SC outputs mostly address stock assessment work, but MSEs and the harvest strategy will be different, and not really focussed on stock assessments. Indonesia suggested a step could be missing, and requested further explanation, perhaps from SPC, on the harvest strategies and how to arrange the process.
322. The Chair noted the issue was how the dialogue communicates with SPC so that the Commission can then make decisions. She noted that after past discussions on the harvest strategy, the Commission tasked SPC with work that was provided to subsequent meetings. She asked members whether they preferred tasking SPC in December to return the next December, or to provide the taskings in August, with results provided in December. She noted that the objective was to help inform the Commission and enable it to make decisions. The timing of meeting would influence the ability of SPC to provide advice, and asked delegates to confirm their views on timing of the meeting.
323. The members reiterated their previous positions, with some advocating for holding the dialogue in conjunction with SC, and others for holding a two-day session prior to the annual meeting. The Chair summarized the views expressed, and the challenges associated with each proposal. She asked the Commission to consider how quickly it sought to progress the harvest strategy work, noting that a workplan exists but has not been advanced.
324. Following further discussions with members, and in the absence of a compromise, the Chair proposed the harvest strategy discussion be held during the Commission regular annual session, where the SC report and SPC advice were available. She noted this would entail extending the Commission meeting (with some cost implications) or reducing its agenda.
325. Pew stated that Commission members had agreed that development of harvest strategies was a core component of the Commission's business and one of the most important elements of its future work. It stated that the Commission needed to give the harvest strategy work the serious attention it deserves, which requires both time and having the right people at the table. It encouraged the Commission to revisit the idea of a science-management dialogue and find a way to allow the necessary discussion to occur, and experiment with different schedules, perhaps rotating from being associated with one Commission meeting to another.
326. RMI and Tokelau supported the Chair's proposal in view of the lack of a compromise, with Tokelau stating that it was a sound idea to mainstream the harvest strategy issues into the work of the Commission, while allowing for some discussion in the SC. The EU stated it would support the Chair's

proposal, noting it was clear that various members had different ideas of what the dialogue should achieve, and that some saw it as an opportunity to prepare for the next annual meeting. The EU reiterated its view that initially the dialogue should focus on improving managers capacity to engage effectively in shaping the MSE framework. It stated that if it is scheduled as a stand-alone dialogue it should be distinct from the agenda of the Commission. EU noted that at present only a few people understand the mechanics of the MSE (and they probably work for SPC), and there was a need to have managers involved, which is in the essence the dialogue. Tonga stated they understood the importance of the dialogue and supported the Chair's proposal. Australia stated they had hoped to secure agreement for a dialogue, but in its absence recognized the importance of progressing the work through the SC, TCC and Commission meetings. Australia suggested that the harvest strategy dialogue discussion should continue in 2019, and the question of how to progress the science-management dialogue be revisited at SC16.

327. Commission members agreed to extend the WCPFC16 meeting by one day to allow for more in-depth discussion of harvest strategy issues. The Secretariat estimated that the additional cost for such an extension was approximately US\$6,000. The Chair noted that members would have input to the agenda and scheduling when arrangements for WCPFC16 were finalized, and that a decision on whether to continue this approach for subsequent Commission meetings could be made by WCPFC16, particularly in light of the desire of some members to revisit the issue of a dialog at WCPFC16.

328. The Commission agreed to hold a 6-day annual meeting in 2019 with additional time devoted for the Commission to discuss harvest strategies.
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7.5 Review of Work Plan

329. The Chair noted that WCPFC14 adopted **WCPFC15-2018-IP09: *Agreed workplan for the adoption of Harvest Strategies under CMM 2014-06***. The Chair of the Harvest Strategy SWG (Australia) introduced revisions to the workplan that reflected SPC capacity and resource constraints. It noted that the workplan had initially called for SPC to commence MSE work on bigeye and yellowfin in 2019, but that work was now deferred to 2020 because of constraints faced by SPC. Australia noted the addition of three items for 2019:

- a) South Pacific albacore — identifying a range of alternative catch pathways to the interim TRP and timeframes that achieve this;
- b) Skipjack — SC to advise on required analyses to support TRP review; and
- c) SPC to review potential options to capture multi species issues under the harvest strategy process.

Regarding the need for clarity on whether decisions on harvest strategy elements are “interim”, the proposed approach is for the workplan to not state whether a future decision will be interim or otherwise but to simply schedule the decision and then let the Commission determine its interim nature. A more substantial review of the Harvest Strategy Workplan, with inclusion of more detail, is anticipated during SC15 and WCPFC16.

330. Japan noted its earlier concern regarding difficulties faced by SPC in calculating some performance indicators for skipjack for the purpose of estimating skipjack MSE, especially in relation to avoiding impacts on small fishers. Japan noted its prior intention to address the issue through the harvest strategy working group, but given that a working group meeting would not be held it wanted to (i) confirm that SPC cannot calculate these indicators, and (ii) if that was correct, confirm that a CCM could present the issue in a paper relating to calculation of the skipjack TRP.

331. SPC stated that as part of the harvest strategy work it was conducting extensive stakeholder engagement as it sought to develop performance indicators. SPC agreed that the MSE framework would not include as many of the performance indicators as stakeholders wanted to see because of the need for a proper modelling framework, and some aspects (e.g., allocation) are very hard to model. SPC stated it would do its best to develop proxies or other quantities that can inform these questions. With respect to the issue raised by Japan it stated it should be possible to get some information on skipjack abundance in areas where small scale fisheries are located, but that it would discuss the issue in detail as work progressed. Japan stated it would be happy to cooperate with SPC on the issue.
332. In response to a suggestion from China, the Chair noted the presentation of species in the workplan was not an indication of their priority.

333. The Commission adopted the Updated Workplan for the Adoption of Harvest Strategies under CMM 2014-06 (WCPFC15-2018-HS_SWGWorkPlan_01, dated 14 December 2018) (Attachment I*).

AGENDA ITEM 8 — WCPO SHARK STOCKS AND BYCATCH MITIGATION

334. The Chair noted that a reference document had been prepared — WCPFC15-2018-22: *Reference document for bycatch mitigation CMM reviews*.

8.1 Report of the Shark-IWG, including Proposal for a Comprehensive CMM for Sharks and Rays

335. Shingo Ota (Japan), the IWG-Sharks Chair noted that the IWG had operated under TORs agreed at WCPFC14, and thanked the participants, and Dr Shelley Clarke, who had assisted as technical advisor. He stated that prior drafts had been circulated, with the 4th draft reviewed by SC14, the 5th draft by TCC14, with the 6th draft available for review at WCPFC15 (WCPFC15-2018-IWGSharks: *6th Draft Consolidated Text for the Conservation and Management Measure for Sharks*).
336. During WCPFC15 an SWG was established to review and refine the 6th draft. After several rounds of discussion, the SWG produced a draft CMM for sharks. During the SWG Japan submitted a proposal to replace, among others, para 7 of CMM 2010-07 (how to implement full utilization of sharks) as follows:
- “9. In order to implement the obligation in paragraph 8, in [2019, 2020, 2021] as an interim measure, CCMs shall require their vessels to land sharks with fins naturally attached to the carcass or to take alternative compatible measures to ensure that individual shark carcasses and their corresponding fins can be identified on board the vessel, such as:
- individual shark carcass with corresponding fins are stored in bag;
 - fins are bound to the carcass using rope or wire; or
 - tags are attached both to shark carcasses and corresponding fins
10. All CCMs shall report on the implementation of the measures in paragraph 9 no later than 30 July each year for review by TCC. The report by CCMs shall contain the detailed explanation of implementation of paragraph 9 including how the compliance can be monitored. The TCC in [2021] shall recommend the measures for [2022] and thereafter to implement the obligations in paragraph 8 [and 8bis] to be adopted in the Commission.”

337. Although the SWG extensively discussed this proposal and made many refinements, no consensus was reached. The SWG agreed, however, that this proposed language could be a good basis for future discussion, and thus should be recorded in the minutes of WCPFC15.
338. During plenary discussions regarding the SWG outcomes, some members noted the need for better reporting requirements, and others called for review of the proposal by TCC.
339. Australia stated that while it was disappointed that the Commission is unable to adopt a combined measure on sharks at WCPFC15, it wished to thank Japan for the huge amount of work in consulting with Commission members through the year, leading the small working group, and its efforts to develop alternative measures in concert with their industry. Australia looked forward to building on this work at WCPFC16. The United States also expressed its thanks to the IWG-Sharks Chair, and looked forward to further discussions in 2019 to strengthen the measure.
340. The EU also thanked the IWG-Sharks Chair for his hard work to progress a new CMM for Sharks. Despite no consensus being reached the EU considered that the work done during the Annual Meeting SWG opened new avenues that could be important for next year's decision making, which would also require intersessional preparation. The EU regretted that the alternative/compatible measures proposed for the monitoring of the implementation of the finning ban had not been discussed during the intersessional work of the dedicated IWG. It indicated that these alternative measures were proposed too late (towards the end of the Annual Meeting) and were not documented to allow members to make informed decisions. It invited the proponents to develop these intersessionally and to provide to SC and/or TCC15 documented evidence that these measures can be effectively enforced (including at sea), monitored and that they will not create any loopholes.

341. The Commission tasked TCC15 with considering the outputs of the shark intersessional working group and encouraged interested Members to submit proposals to TCC15.

8.2 Proposal for Best Practice Guidelines for Safe Release of Sharks

342. The Commission adopted the Best Practice Guidelines for Safe Release of Sharks (**Attachment J**).

8.3 North Pacific blue shark – Designation as a northern stock

343. The United States stated that it examined the information provided by SC14 regarding designation of North Pacific blue shark as a northern stock, but stated that the data did not allow making a determination that the stock is mostly located north of 20°N, and that the United States believes it does not support designation as a northern stock at this time. There were no other discussions under this agenda item.

8.4 Review of CMM 2017-06 on Seabirds

344. New Zealand introduced **WCPFC15-2018-DP16: Seabird Interaction Mitigation: Amendment of CMM 2017-06** and expressed thanks to various members for helping with the proposal, and to SPC for helping to prepare scientific information to support the proposal. The amendments would add hook-shielding devices to the list of acceptable measures to reduce seabird bycatch south of 30°S, and add a requirement to require the use of seabird mitigation measures in the area 30°S to 25°S.

345. The measure was discussed in a SWG, and members reached consensus in plenary regarding **WCPFC15-2018-DP16_rev2** following further small changes. New Zealand thanked all members for their support for the measure and for their work over several years.
346. Australia expressed its appreciation to New Zealand for its work on the issue. New Caledonia thanked all the delegates for their input on this issue and particularly delegates from the EU, China, Korea and Japan for the efforts made to take into account their specific circumstances. New Caledonia stated that it would continue operating transparently and seeking to ensure sustainability, and would seek to improve data collection between 25° S and 30° S by increasing observer coverage as much as possible.
347. French Polynesia also thanked all those involved, and especially New Zealand for coordinating the positions of all interested parties, and for considering the fisheries development aspirations of SIDS. It noted that much remained to be done for seabirds, and that French Polynesia was ready to assist whenever possible.
348. The EU also thanked members for their hard work. It noted that during the discussion that the EU was opposed to the exceptions within the measure but stated that these were not that important at present, because they did not have relevant impacts on seabirds. EU stated that if fisheries are developed in zones that are currently exempted from the measure there would be impacts and given that members have a responsibility to protect endangered species, there could be a need for revisions in the future.

349. The Commission agreed to adopt CMM 2018-03 Conservation and Management Measure to Mitigate the Impact of Fishing for Highly Migratory Fish Stocks on Seabirds (**Attachment K**).

8.5 Review of CMM 2008-03 on Sea Turtles

350. The United States introduced **WCPFC15-2018-DP06: Revisions to CMM 2008-03 Conservation and Management Measure of sea turtles** and **WCPFC15-2018-DP07: Amendments to the WCPFC Regional Observer Programme minimum standard data fields**, both of which seek to increase sea turtle protection, and stated it looked forward to additional work in the margins of WCPFC15 to progress the measures.
351. Following significant discussions in the margins of WCPFC15, the Commission reached agreement regarding revisions to CMM 2008-03. The United States thanked members for their cooperation on the issue, noting it was a very important step. Regarding WCPFC15-2018-DP07, the United States noted that work to modify the ROP minimum data standards was ongoing and stated that it looked forward to continuing work with members to further progress the issue in 2019 and beyond.

352. The Commission agreed to adopt CMM 2018-04 Conservation and Management Measure for Conservation and Management of Sea Turtles (**Attachment L**), with a date of implementation of 1 January 2020.

AGENDA ITEM 9 — ADOPTION OF REPORTS FROM SUBSIDIARY BODIES

353. The reports of the subsidiary bodies were taken by the Chair as read and were not presented to the Commission. However, recommendations of subsidiary bodies not addressed under other agenda items were considered under this agenda item.

9.1 SC14

354. The Chair referred the Commission to **WCPFC15-2018-23: *Synopsis of SC14 summary report for agenda item 9.1***. She noted that in addition to SC14 recommendations addressed under other agenda items, SC14 had recommended to the Commission that it initiate efforts to identify and promote best practices for safe release of whale sharks.

355. The EU stated that the work of the SC and advice the Commission received was outstanding and thanked its members. It suggested that it would be useful when discussing projections for species under management to consider both very long-term projections, and shorter periods (e.g. 5 years, and up to 15 or 20 years) to further inform Commission decisions. It also stated that it perceived there were inconsistencies in terms of the advice offered for various species. As an example, the EU contrasted the very precautionary advice offered for bigeye tuna, which had a quite positive stock status assessment, and the lack of proportionately cautionary advice for Pacific bluefin tuna, the stock of which has been assessed to be overfished, with overfishing occurring. The EU suggested the need to ensure there is greater consistency among species when advice is elaborated (e.g., advice reflecting the conservation status and existing management objectives).

356. The Chair noted these were helpful suggestions for members to keep in mind, observing that the stakes of Commission decisions were increasing, and members could always think about how to do business better. She stated there was a need to match information, advice and decisions, and a need to look at cases where the Commission did not receive advice on issues for which it asked for advice.

357. The Commission adopted the SC14 Summary Report (WCPFC15-2018-SC14).

9.2 NC14

358. The Chair referred the Commission to **WCPFC15-2018-NC14: *NC14 Summary Report (Revision 1)***, during the discussion of the NC14 Summary Report and relevant recommendations.

359. The United States stated it was encouraged by progress in undertaking the North Pacific albacore MSE, and that an MSE for Pacific bluefin tuna had been initiated. It noted these multi-year evaluations required resources from commission members and stated that a good plan to undertake the MSE was in place for North Pacific albacore, and that a plan was being formulated for Pacific bluefin tuna.

360. The Commission adopted the report of NC14 (WCPFC15-2018-NC14).
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9.3 TCC14

361. The Commission was referred to **WCPFC15-2018-24_rev1: *Reference Paper for TCC14 Recommendations for Agenda 9.3 – revision 1***, which was prepared as a quick reference guide to the recommendations of TCC14 of relevance to WCPFC15 discussions. The full report of TCC14 was also tabled for consideration (**WCPFC14-2018-TCC14: *TCC14 Summary Report Final - issued 30 November 2018***).

9.3.1 Regional Observer Programme

362. The Commission agreed to adopt the TCC14 recommended amendments to CMM 2007-01, CMM 2018-05, Conservation and Management Measure for the Regional Observer Programme, (**Attachment M**).
363. The Commission agreed to adopt the TCC14 recommended amendments to the ROP minimum standards (**Attachment N**).
364. The Commission agreed that the TCC Observer-related working group would continue to operate electronically in 2019, led by Mr. Tom Graham (United States). The TCC Observer-related working group was tasked to:
- a. Conduct further work, with input from the Secretariat and drawing from experiences using the Compliance Case File System and CCMs' investigations, to determine what additional data fields, if any, should be added to the ROP minimum required data fields to support CCM investigations and more general compliance-related needs, such as flagging possible violations of Commission decisions to trigger CCM investigations or as part of the Compliance Monitoring Scheme (also see task (f)).
 - b. More fully consider gaps in the capacity of ROP Providers to respond promptly and fully to requests for observer reports, such as in terms of human resources, training, and equipment, and explore ways to fill those gaps, including the possibility of a process through which ROP Providers may seek and receive financial or other support from the Commission to improve their capacity.
 - c. Explore ways to support ROP Providers' efforts to improve their debriefing processes such that observer reports can be more fully vetted and provided more quickly, including the possibility of giving higher priority to trips that are flagged through the Pre-Notification Process (also see task (g)).
 - d. Explore the potential utility of using the Compliance Case File System to facilitate and track CCM requests for observer reports.
 - e. Explore whether pre-notifications can be sent by ROP Providers directly to the Secretariat without first having to be entered in the data service provider's ROP database along with all the minimum required data fields.
 - f. In concert with task (a), reconsider the summary data fields to better align with the Commission's priorities in terms of compliance.
 - g. In concert with task (c), explore the role debriefing can have in reviewing and filtering Trip Monitoring Summaries to make pre-notifications as efficient and useful as possible.
 - h. Explore, as part of the Pre-Notification Process, the possibility of supplementing the WCPFC Observer Trip Monitoring Summary form with more detailed information from the observer (e.g., using "comments" pages) regarding any affirmative indications on the Summary form, such as more detailed information about the activities in question, which could support a CCM's investigations of those activities, and/or references to particular sections/pages of the full observer report that could help narrow a CCM's request for more information from the ROP Provider.
 - i. Continue to develop mechanisms related to the provision of observer reports, taking into account the outcomes of the tasks listed above and the possible approaches described in WCPFC-TCC14-2018-14 and WCPFC-TCC14-2018-DP07.

9.3.2 Transhipment

365. The Chair noted that TCC14 held a lengthy discussion on transhipment, and that FFA member CCMs had submitted a paper on the issue to WCPFC15 (**WCPFC15-2018-DP14: *Transhipment Regulation: Review of CMM 2009-06***).
366. Tuvalu, on behalf of FFA members supported endorsement of the TCC report and its recommendations, in particular undertaking a review of CMM 2009-06 regarding transhipment as a priority in 2019. Noting that review will require detailed analysis, they offered to work with other CCMs on the terms of reference (TORs) and workplan for this issue.
367. China stated that high seas transhipment was of vital importance for distant water fisheries, which is why China has participated in the establishment of transhipment regulations in several RFMOs, including WCPFC. It noted unregulated high sea transhipment may be used for IUU fishing activities, and regulation of high seas transhipment is the basis of CMM 2009-06, with 100% observer coverage on receiving vessels, and detailed procedures. China noted that CMM 2009-06 had been implemented for eight years, and it was time for WCPFC to review its effectiveness, with a view not to ban high seas transhipment, but to simplify procedures for the purpose of reducing the work load of the WCPFC Secretariat staff and flag CCMs in reference to other tuna RFMOs (e.g., IOTC and ICCAT), especially with regard to reviewing the need to “notify the information in Annex III to the Executive Director at least 36 hours prior to each transhipment”, as called for in para. 35a(iii). In addition, China noted that the obligations under para. 35a(i-v) were to be undertaken “as appropriate”, and that its interpretation of “as appropriate” was that it should not conduct the obligation assessment of the paragraph as it had been in the past. With respect to para. 35.a.(v) calling on CCMs to “Submit to the Commission a plan detailing what steps it is taking to encourage transhipment to occur in port in the future”, China stated its view that this was not mandatory, because of the phrase “as appropriate” in para. 35a. It stated that its policy was to encourage Chinese fishing companies to invest in and use ports in SIDS, and that Chinese authorities could provide financial assistance to Chinese companies for infrastructure improvement, noting they had several examples where this occurred. China noted that current regulation of high seas transhipment activity was in line with the relevant provisions and objectives of the WCPFC Convention, but stated that it had been unable to access an annual transhipment report from the WCPFC Secretariat, and thus were unaware what the current level of high sea transhipment was, and could not assess the overall trend. China requested that the Secretariat provide such a report for WCPFC16.
368. Tuvalu reiterated its strong support for a review of the measure in 2019.
369. The EU also supported a revision of the CMM on transhipment. It noted the various views held by members, and stated that transhipment is an open door for IUU fishing and other problems. The EU observed that its preference was to have no transhipment at sea, and that revising CMM 2009-06 would be difficult. The EU stated that, at a minimum, the level of observer coverage of transhipment should be increased.
370. Japan thanked FFA for their views, and agreed that transhipment at sea should be discussed at TCC15. It supported China’s intervention, and stated that strengthening the monitoring of existing legal transhipment would prevent illegal activities. Japan suggested that the TCC review should focus on how to prevent illegal transhipment by carrier vessels without observers.
371. RMI supported the intervention by Tuvalu and looked forward to working with other members on the issue. In response to a query regarding inclusion of the issue in the TCC workplan, the TCC-Vice Chair clarified that the issue had not been addressed in detail in the working group discussion on the TCC workplan.

372. Chinese Taipei supported a review of the measure in 2019, and also supported the positions expressed by Japan and China.
373. Korea agreed that the measure be reviewed in 2019, noting that at-sea transshipment was an integral part of longline operations, especially for fishing fleets from Asia. It noted that the CMM was in the form of a recommendation rather than a regulation. Korea stated that very high penalties should be imposed in response to IUU activity but did not agree with a ban on at-sea transshipment.
374. Papua New Guinea supported a review of the transshipment measure and asked that the Secretariat provide as much information as possible on transshipment on the high seas to support this.
375. FSM supported the comments from FFA, RMI and PNG, noting the issue had been discussed for some time. Given the proposal to ban high seas transshipment, it agreed a review was warranted, both to strengthen the measure and to enable a more robust approach to monitoring and compliance, and supported inclusion of the issue in the TCC workplan.
376. Canada supported holding a discussion on transshipment in 2019 and requested that the Secretariat provide an analysis of the existing situation with regard to transshipment, which should be included in the Secretariat's workplan.
377. The Commission discussed establishment of an electronic IWG to review CMM 2009-06, and agreed it would be co-chaired by RMI and the United States, with data support provided by the Secretariat as available. PNG noted the importance of information related to the VMS, HSBI, and catch in the high seas pockets. The Chair noted that data availability could impact the work of the IWG and highlighted the need for consultations between the Secretariat and the co-chairs regarding timing and resource availability.

378. The Commission agreed to the TCC14 recommendation that the template provided in TCC14-2018 RP03 Annex 3 be used by all applicable CCMs for their future reporting in Annual Report Part 1, as per CMM 2009-06 paragraph 11 (**Attachment O**).

379. The Commission agreed that TCC's assessment of a CCM under paragraph 13 of CMM 2009-06 will include that CCM's report on observer coverage achieved for their carrier vessels conducting transshipment at sea in their Annual Report Part 2.

380. The Commission agreed to conduct a review of the existing transshipment measure (CMM 2009-06) in 2019, with the review to commence through an electronic intersessional working group, with the group led by two co-chairs, from RMI and the United States.

9.3.3 Commission VMS

381. The Chair raised the issue of assessment of CMM 2014-02 paragraph 4. The TCC Chair stated that the issue arose at TCC14 during compliance analysis. Members expressed differing views on whether the measure was still relevant, but there was agreement that assessments could not be made against the obligation. The Chair stated that Commission should acknowledge that this presented difficulties for compliance assessment. The Chair stated that a resolution was not possible at WCPFC15. The Commission agreed not to assess the provision in 2019.
382. The EU stated that a key output of TCC was the identification of areas where TCC faced difficulties in making compliance assessments. It noted the limited time available to follow-up on key findings from

TCC and encouraged members to consider a process to resolve such issues. The EU observed that TCC14 had difficulties assessing compliance with the CMM related to FAD closures, and indicated that there was a risk that this happens again at TCC15.

383. The Chair stated that the CMR was adopted early during WCPFC15 in an effort to enable discussion on difficulties faced by TCC with respect to compliance monitoring. She noted that this could occur during regular reviews of CMMs, but stated that some issues did not come up for regular review. She stated that known problems must be addressed, and thanked the EU for its comments, and encouraged Members to consider the issue for resolution in the future.

384. Canada agreed that the issue should be considered during the review and the update of the CMS and TCC workplan, and suggested that review and development of audit points would be of help. The TCC Chair stated that TCC had worked to address a number of simpler issues over a number of years, and that what remained were the more complicated obligations, for which it was more difficult for TCC to provide good recommendations. She noted that the revised CMS process may enable additional room for this review.

385. The Commission agreed to extend the “Manual reporting in the event of ALC malfunction” requirement (Attachment 1 to the VMS SSPs) for a further two years (until 1 March 2021), taking into consideration the need for more timely provision of manual reports through automated online facilities or via electronic reporting where flag CCMs directly upload the required information.

386. The Commission approved the addition to the WCPFC approved ALC/MTU list of the following ALC units:

Model/Approved Type	MTU	Manufacturer	Comm System	Service Provider
Skywave IDP-690		ORBCOMM/Skywave	INMARSAT ISATDATA PRO	Skywave
ORBCOMM ST6100		ORBCOMM/Skywave	INMARSAT ISATDATA PRO	Skywave
iTrac101B (iTrac II)		MetOcean Telematics	Iridium SBD	MetOcean Telematics
BB3		SASCO	Iridium (mini LEO)	SASCO
BB5		SASCO	Iridium (mini LEO)	SASCO
RomTrax Wifi		Rom Communications	Iridium SBD	Rom Communications

387. The Commission agreed to amend the WCPFC VMS SSPs, section 2 paragraph 7, so that ALC/MTU units can be included on the approved ALC/MTU list based on the Secretariat’s Assessment that any newly nominated ALC/MTU meets the minimum standards and following a

specified period after the circulation of this advice to all CCMs. The replacement paragraph for section 2 paragraph 7 is provided below:

7. The Secretariat will assess proposals for inclusion of additional ALC/MTU makes and models on this list from both CCMs and equipment manufacturers. The Secretariat shall include the ALC/MTU make or model being proposed on this list, if no CCM objects in writing within 30 days of the Secretariat circulating notice of its intent to all CCMs, and, if in the Secretariat's assessment, the ALC/MTU make or model meets the minimum standards for the Commission VMS as set out in Annex 1 of CMM 2014-02 (or its successor measure), the WCPFC SSPs, as relevant, by determining that the ALC/MTU make and model has the ability to successfully report to the Commission VMS, and by using the methodology established by the FFA with expenses for type approval processing to be borne by the proposing entity. Where the Secretariat concludes in its assessment that a proposed ALC/MTU make or model does not meet these requirements, or if a CCM objects in writing to the Secretariat's proposal to approve a new ALC/MTU make or model, the Secretariat within the annual report shall make recommendations regarding the proposed ALC/MTU make or model for the TCC's consideration and the Commission's approval. The Secretariat will recommend, as needed, to TCC the removal of units currently on the list of approved ALC/MTU makes and models that it has determined no longer meet the minimum standards set out in Annex 1 of CMM2014-02 (or successor measure), or do not have the ability to successfully report to the Commission VMS. If an ALC/MTU make and model is removed from the list of approved ALC/MTU types, flag CCMs will ensure that their fishing vessels replace non-type approved ALC/MTUs with approved ALC/MTUs by the next replacement of the ALC/MTU, but no later than three years after the Commission's decision.

388. The Commission approved the updated Standard Operating Procedures for the WCPFC VMS (**Attachment P**).

389. The Commission agreed that CMM 2014-02 paragraph 4 should not be included in the list of obligations for review by the Compliance Monitoring Scheme in 2019.

9.3.4 Expanding the requirement for IMO Numbers

390. The United States introduced **WCPFC15-2018-DP05: Amendment to CMM 2017-05 to expand the requirement for IMO numbers**, as recommended by TCC14, and expressed appreciation for the overall support for the proposal from Commission members. In reply to a query from Canada the United States stated that the proposed language was drawn from that used by the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) to avoid any conflicts with IMO Ship Identification Number Scheme. PNG, on behalf of FFA members, expressed their support for the proposal.

391. The Philippines stated that at TCC14 its delegation asked for assistance from the proponent before adoption and noted that its concerns had been addressed.

392. Pew, speaking also on behalf of EDF, IPNLF, ISSF and WWF, commended the Commission on its decision to expand the requirement for IMO numbers, which they stated would have a positive effect on transparency and the ability of fisheries managers and enforcement agencies to identify and trace vessels. They stated it would further strengthen the monitoring, control, and surveillance programme of the WCPFC and the efforts of coastal States and fishing States in fighting illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing. Obtaining IMO numbers for eligible vessels is becoming increasingly easy, as the managers of the IMO work closer with flag States to help them fill their data gaps and obtain numbers

for their fleet, in bulk. They stated that they were ready to assist delegates in accessing further information on obtaining IMO Numbers, or get in direct contact with the programme's managers.

393. The Commission agreed to amend CMM 2017-05 to expand the requirements for IMO numbers, and adopted CMM 2018-06 Conservation and Management Measure for WCPFC Record of Fishing Vessels and Authorisation to Fish (**Attachment Q, WCPFC15-2018-DP05**).

9.3.5 High seas boarding and inspection: authorities of the fishing vessel

394. The United States introduced **WCPFC15-2018-DP31: *High seas boarding and inspection: authorities of the fishing vessel*** (originally notified under Circular 2018/74) regarding submission to the Executive Director of the name(s) and contact information of its Authorities of the Fishing Vessel for the purpose of CMM 2006-08, noting that 11 CCMs have not identified their relevant authorities.

395. New Zealand, on behalf of FFA members, noted that the United States should review their proposal in accordance with CMM 2013-06 to evaluate its impact on SIDS. Japan thanked the United States for its submission, and stated that it could support the proposal, but stated that in some cases it had provided contact points, but these were not shared within the same country. Japan noted this was particularly a problem with respect to the United States, which sometimes used old contact points. It requested that the United States distribute the most updated contact points within its government.

396. The Commission agreed that no later than **1 March 2019**, any CCM that has not done so already shall submit to the Executive Director the name(s) and contact information of its Authorities of the Fishing Vessel for the purpose of CMM 2006-08. If a CCM fails to do so by that date, the CCM's primary official point of contact for the Commission shall be considered its Authorities of the Fishing Vessel, and the Executive Director will make that information available to CCMs on the public side of the WCPFC website, on the list of Authorities of the Fishing Vessel.

9.3.6 Update of TCC Workplan

397. Mr Laurence Edwards (RMI), TCC Vice-Chair introduced the outcome of the SWG to update the TCC workplan: **WCPFC15-2018-SWG TCC Work Plan: *TCC Workplan 2019-2021***. He expressed his appreciation to the SWG participants and confirmed that the TCC Workplan was ready for adoption.

398. The Commission adopted the TCC Workplan 2019-2021 (**Attachment R, WCPFC15-2018-SWG TCC Workplan**).

399. The Commission adopted the report of TCC14 (**WCPFC15-2018-TCC14**).

9.4 ERandEMWG3

400. The Chair referenced **WCPFC15-2018-35: *Reference paper for ERandEMWG3 recommendations for Agenda Item 9.4***, taking the report as read.

401. The EU stated it supported acceptance of the report, with the understanding that the planned work to include FLUX in the WCPFC ER and EM standards will continue to be progressed, to ensure notably that those already using FLUX will not face compatibility issues.

402. Vanuatu, on behalf of FFA members, supported the endorsement of the report and its outcomes, and suggested the working group next meet in 2020, consistent with the previous 2-year spacing of meetings, which would allow some important related work to be undertaken, such as Project 93.
403. Korea thanked the ERandEMWG Chair, Kerry Smith (Australia), for her hard work. It noted that E-Monitoring could be a useful tool, and detailed some of the progress Korea was making at the national level on E-Reporting and E-Monitoring. Korea supported endorsement of the report.
404. FSM, on behalf of the PNA, supported the statement made by Vanuatu and FFA members. The PNA thanked the working group chair for her efforts and the WCPFC Secretariat for the support they provided. They looked forward to contributing to the comprehensive data review proposed by the working group and now included in the SC draft workplan. PNA ministers have directed the development of a PNA Electronic Monitoring Program, which was reinforced by the recent call by the President of FSM to have all longline vessels subject to electronic monitoring by the year 2023. Building on the results of several trials of E-Monitoring technology on longliners in PNA waters, PNA members have started work with The Nature Conservancy on developing a PNA Electronic Monitoring Program. PNA members stated they that look forward to working with other CCMs in this important area, particularly to improve monitoring and scientific data collection on high seas distant water longliners.

Update or revision of E-reporting SSPs

405. The Commission agreed with respect to maintaining adopted standards, matters of substance (such as major changes or new proposals) shall be considered in a manner consistent with already established processes for new proposals. The Secretariat shall administer minor changes to the SSPs that reflect decisions of the Commission by circulating a draft to all CCMs advising that the change had been made and would come into effect on a date at least consistent with that in the SSPs. CCMs shall be provided the opportunity to raise concerns and if so, the change becomes a matter of substance and will be handled as such.

Standards for E-reporting of high seas transshipment

406. The Commission adopted the E-Reporting Standards for transshipment declarations and transshipment notices (**WCPFC-2018-ERandEMWG03-03 Attachment 1, Attachment S**).
407. The Commission agreed that where transshipment declarations and transshipment notices are submitted to WCPFC in accordance with the E-Reporting Standards for transshipment declarations and transshipment notices, the following information will not be required:
- a. the observers signature;
 - b. a unique document identifier;
 - c. for the offloading vessel to supply data on the quantity of product already on board the receiving vessel;
 - d. for the receiving vessel to supply data on the fishing gear that the offloading vessel used to take the fish; and
 - e. for the receiving vessel to supply data on the quantity of product to be transhipped.
408. The Commission also agreed to

a. add a footnote to Annex I of CMM 2009-06 that says “CCMs shall submit information required in Annex I or in accordance with E-reporting Standards for transshipment declarations and transshipment notices”; and

b. add a footnote to Annex III of CMM 2009-06 that says “CCMs shall submit information required in Annex III or in accordance with E-reporting Standards for transshipment declarations and transshipment notices

E-monitoring concept paper

409. The Commission agreed to prioritising E-monitoring in areas where independent data collection and verification is currently low and asked SC15 and TCC15 for advice on priority areas.

410. The Commission supported the continuation of intersessional work, led by the ERandEMWG Chair Kerry Smith (Australia) to further develop a draft conservation and management measure on E-monitoring for consideration by the Commission in 2020. The ERandEMWG Chair was tasked to provide a report on progress to WCPFC16 in 2019.

ERandEMWG3 Report

411. The Commission adopted the ERandEMWG3 Summary Report (**WCPFC15-2018-ERandEMWG3**).

AGENDA ITEM 10 — COMPLIANCE MONITORING SCHEME

10.1 Consideration and Adoption of the Final Compliance Monitoring Report (CMR)

412. The Commission considered the provisional CMR recommended by TCC14 through a small working group led by Alexa Cole (United States), the TCC Chair, which compiled the final CMR for adoption. The TCC Chair provided a report on the SWG outcomes. The review of compliance by CCMs was undertaken against an updated priority list of Commission obligations agreed to at WCPFC14 for 2018, and in accordance with CMM 2017-07. The current CMS does not require an overall assessment of each CCM, but only asks WCPFC to identify a compliance assessment for each specific obligation. Some obligations were assessed by WCPFC15 as “CMM Review”. The CMS working group noted that in some cases, such as in relation to CMM 2016-01, the obligations in question have already been revised in CMM 2017-01, but encouraged the Commission to consider whether additional revision is needed to resolve the difficulties in assessment. WCPFC15 assessed the following obligations as CMM Review: CMM 2014-02, para 4; and CMM 2016-01, paras 14, 16 and 18. There were two obligations that WCPFC15 was not able to assess due to a lack of consensus as to the compliance status. Therefore, the following obligations were not assessed: CMM 2016-04, para 3(2) (Japan, relating to a difference of opinion on the management period and associated reporting for the measure) and CMM 2016-01, para 22 (Philippines).

413. Commission members and the Commission Chair expressed their appreciation to Alexa Cole for her work in chairing TCC.

414. The Commission adopted the 2018 Final Compliance Monitoring Report (covering 2017 activities) (**WCPFC15-2018-finalCMR, Attachment T**).

10.2 Review of the Compliance Monitoring Scheme

10.2.1 Report from the independent panel to review the Compliance Monitoring Scheme

415. The Chair stated that **WCPFC15-2018-26**: *Report from the independent panel to review the Compliance Monitoring Scheme* was considered by the CMS IWG, as discussed in **WCPFC15-2018-27A**, and highlighted by the CMS IWG Chair under Agenda Item 10.2.2.
416. Australia, on behalf of FFA members, thanked the Review Panel for their comprehensive and valuable report that incorporated FFA members' views. FFA members had reviewed the recommendations and recognised several of these in development of the FFA proposal on the draft CMS measure. As stated at TCC14, while the priority task for FFA members is development of the measure, some recommendations are distinct from the measure and it would be useful to progress these to support the CMS process and the broader work of the Commission. These relate to continued development of the Commission's IMS to support implementation of the CMS and support MCS activities; continued development of training resources and learning aids for the IMS; and options to mitigate the impacts of unscheduled disruption to the Secretariat and trends analyses of capacity development information. These were discussed in the context of the revised TCC workplan and FFA members strongly recommended they be included in the workplan.
417. The Chair noted that members should draw on the report's recommendations. She expressed gratitude to the three members of the review panel for considering a very large body of work that should serve as a guide.

418. The Commission noted the Report from the Independent Panel to review the Compliance Monitoring Scheme and agreed that the recommendations therein would serve as a reference for the Commissions consideration of future work to enhance the Compliance Monitoring Scheme (**WCPFC15-2018-26**).

10.2.2 Report of the CMS-IWG, including Proposal for a CMM for the Compliance Monitoring Scheme

419. The Commission considered the following papers related to the CMS: **WCPFC15-2018-27A**: *Summary of CMS IWG comments on the report from the independent review of the CMS*; **WCPFC15-2018-27B**: *Compilation of CMS IWG comments on the "Draft list of principles document"*; and **WCPFC15-2018-DP11_rev1**: *Comments on the working draft text for the Compliance Monitoring Scheme - revision 1*.
420. Mr Glen Joseph (RMI), as CMS-IWG Chair noted that the IWG was established at WCPFC14 to undertake two tasks: (i) to consider the report from the Independent Panel on the Review of the CMS (**WCPFC15-2018-26**), and (ii) to develop a proposed conservation and management measure for the CMS for consideration at WCPFC15. A summary of the views of the CMS-IWG on the Independent Panel report is contained in **WCPFC15-2018-27A**. The development of the proposed CMM for the CMS was progressed through submission of draft text from members, including a consolidated draft from FFA, and discussed at an informal meeting held in conjunction with SC14. A face-to-face meeting of the IWG was financially supported by New Zealand and was convened immediately prior to TCC14. Further work produced **WCPFC15-2018-CMS IWG**: *Review of the WCPFC Compliance Monitoring Scheme — CMS IWG Working Draft Text – revision 3*. The CMS-IWG welcomed further development of the proposal through the CMS SWG during WCPFC15.

421. Following further work, Glen Joseph (RMI) as the CMS SWG Chair, presented the sixth working draft. Members expressed support for the proposal, and the TCC Chair noted that it was a strong measure that would support the CMS. CCMs also acknowledged the efforts of the CMS-IWG Chair and all Commission members for engaging in a spirit of compromise and cooperation.

422. FSM, on behalf of FFA members, stated that various areas of future work were contemplated by the proposed CMS measure: (i) the development of a risk-based framework to inform compliance assessments; (ii) the development of audit points for assessing CCMs' compliance with obligations; and (iii) a comprehensive review of the Commission's reporting requirements. They noted the work has been generally considered by FAC, with budgetary allocations made for CMS work. Two of these work areas have also been specifically included in the TCC Workplan. They noted the need to finalise any terms of reference for the work and suggested these be developed based on the draft terms of reference submitted by FFA in **WCPFC15-2018-DP11_rev 1: Comments on the working draft text for the Compliance Monitoring Scheme**. FSM also thanked the United States for its cooperation and engagement in developing the measure.

423. The United States stated some of the future work identified in the new CMS CMM could be accomplished by Members without additional resource implications. In particular, the United States stated it would be happy to engage with other interested CCMs intersessionally on the development of audit points.

424. The Commission adopted CMM 2018-07 Conservation and Management Measure for Compliance Monitoring Scheme (**WCPFC15-2018-CMS IWG_04, Attachment U**).

425. The Commission noted that the measure includes an ambitious workplan for 2019 and that FAC had allocated some budgetary resources to support this work. The Commission welcomed the expressions of interest from some Members to work with other Members during the intersessional period in 2019, to develop draft audit points for the assessment of obligations through the Compliance Monitoring Scheme.

426. The Commission agreed that the list of obligations to be assessed in 2019 through the Compliance Monitoring Scheme should be based on the approved list from 2018 (**Attachment V**).

AGENDA ITEM 11 — ADOPTION OF THE 2019 IUU VESSEL LIST

427. The Chair introduced **WCPFC15-2018-28: WCPFC IUU Vessel List for 2019**, which presented for the consideration of WCPFC15 the relevant information for a decision on the 2019 WCPFC IUU Vessel List.

428. The Commission adopted the 2019 WCPFC IUU Vessel List (**Attachment W**).

429. The Commission tasked the Executive Director to:

- a. seek the former flag CCM's or non-CCM's cooperation to provide any information on these vessels, including their respective master's names and nationalities;
- b. write to all CCMs to provide information to the Commission if the vessels on the WCPFC IUU Vessel List are located, or if there are any known changes to name, flag or registered owner,

including any action that port states have taken such as denial of port entry and services to those vessels or any information from cannery State of any landings made by these vessels;

- c. write a letter to other RFMOs and other relevant bodies conveying this same message for cooperation to locate these vessels; and
- d. promptly reported any information received to CCMs.

AGENDA ITEM 12 — REPORT OF THE TWELFTH ANNUAL SESSION OF THE FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

12.1 Report of the Twelfth Finance and Administration Committee

430. The Commission considered the report of FAC12 (**WCPFC15-2018-FAC12-14**). The FAC co-Chair Magele Etuati Ropeti (Samoa) presented the FAC report, and thanked CCMs who participated in the FAC sessions held on the 9th, 12th, 13th and 14th of December. The main recommendations included: that a supplementary retirement plan for locally engaged staff be implemented in 2019; support for the Secretariat’s efforts to develop and implement an environmental policy; approval of the terms of reference and budget for a consultancy to undertake a building survey and develop a maintenance plan for the Commission buildings; and agreement to keep the SRF at a target base level of US\$150,000, which is equivalent to ~2% of CCM contributions, to support implementation of the SIP and other needs as identified by developing States parties.

431. Australia stated that FFA members requested that US\$100,000 amount be set aside in a dedicated line item in the TCC budget for future CMS work. The Chair confirmed that this would be done by the Secretariat.

432. PNG inquired whether the observer budget for cross endorsements had an allocation to include cost recovery in the future. The Secretariat stated that cost recovery had been discussed, but the Secretariat had not considered this as a tasking for the next session of the FAC. RMI expressed agreement with PNG and asked that the intention to arrange for full future cost recovery be indicated. The United States recalled that it had offered to fund this through voluntary contributions and stated it would like to see what funds it could arrange to help continue the training. The United States proposed that the issue and any suggestions regarding cost recovery be raised at FAC13.

12.2 Budget Approval for 2019 and Indicative Budgets for 2020 and 2021

433. The Commission adopted the report of the Twelfth Session of the FAC (**WCPFC15-2018-FAC12**), including the 2019 budget of **\$8,041,652** and indicative budgets for 2020 and 2021 of **\$7,966,937** and **\$8,092,140**, respectively (**Attachments X**).

434. The Commission agreed that a new row should be included in Part 2.3 titled “CMS Future Work” with an amount of **\$100,000** in 2019, that is transferred from Sub-Item 2.3 “Information Management System” in 2019. Note 6 should also be shifted to be notation for the “CMS Future Work” budget line.

435. The final adopted 2019 budget and Annexes are provided in (**Attachment Y**).

AGENDA ITEM 13 — ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

13.1 Corporate Plan

436. The Executive Director introduced **WCPFC15-2018-29: Draft medium-term corporate plan**, as required by WCPFC14. He explained that in 2016 and 2017, the Commission was engaged in developing a new long-term planning framework, and an annual short-term planning document. Following significant work, at WCPFC14 the Commission was unable to agree on a way forward for the strategic plan, so decided on a medium-term corporate plan. But when it agreed on the tasking, the Commission provided little instruction in terms of process and key objectives, and no budget for its development. The draft Corporate Plan in **WCPFC15-2018-29** is the Secretariat's best effort to provide a framework to assist the Commission and the Secretariat in organizing its work. In the absence of consultations with members, the Secretariat relied on the materials gathered during the consultations with members and stakeholders in 2016 when developing the draft Strategic Plan, as a reflection of some of the views and perspectives of Commission members and stakeholders. Accordingly, the goals and guiding objectives for the Medium-Term Corporate Plan were adapted and are refinements of those in the draft Strategic Plan. The plan is an organic and living document, subject to regular renewal and refreshment. A short-term consultancy was involved. The Executive Director noted he was seeking guidance on the process to further progress development of the plan, which needs to benefit from input from stakeholders and members. He stated he was encouraged that FAC sought to develop terms of reference for that process.

437. The EU suggested holding consultations intersessionally, and noted it was important to consider the cost implications of the plan. It suggested that regarding Goal 6 of the plan (Enhance the transparency and effectiveness of Commission governance and operations) the EU would like to have language added to ensure that relevant aspects of UNCLOS and the UN FSA are implemented, with provisions that apply to WCPFC applied through the Commission's daily work.

438. New Zealand, on behalf of FFA members, noted with concern that the matter had been before the annual meeting for the past two sessions without substantive progress. They stated their concern to ensure the agenda item was not subject to prolonged discussion with little real value. They stated their view that there were two options:

- a. Abandon the Corporate Plan, and continue to run the Commission on a year-to-year basis as necessary to implement the Convention, its CMMs, and any subsidiary body workplans formally adopted by the Commission (this is not an ideal option); and
- b. Task the WCPFC Secretariat to work with members to refine a draft Corporate Plan focusing on the Secretariat, and bring it back to WCPFC16 next year for adoption.

FFA members' view is that the Commission needs to provide guidance to the Secretariat on how to progress development of the Plan, and that FFA members see clear value in having a Corporate Plan focussing on the work of the Secretariat. In an effort to progress the issue, a number of members developed draft terms of reference for the development of a Corporate Plan for the Secretariat (**WCPFC15-2018-FAC12-13**). FAC received the report positively but there has been no opportunity to seek more formal agreement on the terms of reference. However, FFA members consider there is a need for a Corporate Plan for the Secretariat, developed in consultation with Members.

439. Noting that some members needed further time to consider the terms of reference, the Commission agreed to request that the Executive Director should continue to progress the draft intersessionally during 2019.

440. The Commission directed the Executive Director to progress, intersessionally with interested CCMs, the further development of the draft Medium-Term Corporate Plan (**WCPFC15-2018-29**) to guide the work of the Secretariat and to report back to WCPFC16.

13.2 Kobe Process

441. The Executive Director presented **WCPFC15-2018-30: Kobe Process**, which includes (as Attachment A) a concept note from the Chair of the Steering Committee of the Kobe process, which last met in in July in the margins of the meeting of the FAO Committee on Fisheries. The Executive Director noted that the Chair of the Steering Committee was present at WCPFC15. The Executive Director provided a background on the Kobe Process, which is intended to provide a platform for cooperation among the five tuna RFMOs.
442. The Chair of the Kobe Process Steering Committee stated that cooperation between RFMOs was useful where common challenges exist, where cooperation can be beneficial, and where such cooperation does not impinge on autonomy. He briefly reviewed the history of the Kobe Process, and the current effort to determine the correct format, scale and focus for cooperation. He stated the Concept Note proposed three main categories: (i) cooperation, exchange of information and coordination among RFMO secretariats (members of the Kobe Process steering committee); (ii) organisation of meetings of existing or new working groups covering specific topics (e.g., FADs, MSE, and bycatch), with open participation and voluntary contributions; and (iii) organisation of new large-scale meetings, which he noted could only work if properly prepared, and which are accompanied by many reservations. He encouraged members to discuss the options, and asked the Commission to allow the Chair and Executive Director to work further on these issues.
443. Japan stated that it had indicated at meetings of other RFMOs where it is a member that Japan very much supported cooperation among RFMOs, and the organisation of small and medium-sized meetings that focus on specific themes, such as MSE, which is a very new and emerging issue. It expressed reservations regarding large-scale meetings that inevitably cover a wide range of issues, including some that are very controversial, and noted the severe conflicts that develop in those settings were not helpful.
444. Tokelau, on behalf of FFA members, thanked the members of the Steering Committee of the Kobe Process for bringing forward some suggestions regarding the future work of the tuna RFMOs. They noted FFA members have always recognised the potential benefits of a process that allows the tuna RFMOs to learn from each other's successes by facilitating better information sharing and cooperation. However, they stated they were also very aware of the risks that the global process can pose for FFA members. They stated they have worked hard in the WCPFC to establish management frameworks that recognise the sovereign rights and aspirations of the SIDS in the Pacific, in whose EEZs the vast majority of WCPO catch is taken. They stated they are wary of any process that could undermine the progress made in the region, and stated that unfortunately, the earlier Kobe process did exactly that. They also raised the issue of the cost of engaging in additional processes on top of the already congested schedule of regional meetings and deadlines. They stated they had yet to be convinced that the potential benefits of reinvigorating the Kobe process will outweigh the costs.
445. Canada stated it did not participate in the earlier high-level sessions of the Kobe Process, and understood the current smaller-scale meetings seemed to have good results. It noted that it was unfortunate it was being raised at the conclusion of WCPFC15 and stated it did not fully understand the concerns of FFA members. Canada noted the issue was to how to make the process work better, and suggested that sharing specific practices and experiences (e.g., on managing transshipment at sea) could

be very useful among tuna RFMOs. Canada supported involvement in the Kobe process, while expressing reluctance regarding high-level meetings.

446. The EU thanked the presenters, noting the Kobe Process is important, and creates synergies and enhances complementarities between RFMOs. It suggested the process offered only benefits to members. Based on the Concept Note, the EU suggested meetings and working groups offered the most value in the short and medium term. It expressed regret that the WCPFC was not represented in the 2018 Tuna RFMO FAD working group meeting, and stated this was an essential subject for WCPFC members. The EU expressed less interest in the large-scale meetings, but said they may be useful at some time. It saw no risks for any members of the WCPFC in participation, noting that the rights of coastal states were not discussed at the level being proposed, and that the Kobe Process could in any case only reinforce these rights. Furthermore, the EU stated that issues could be addressed in a manner to support developing states throughout the different RFMOs, which offered benefits and synergies rather than risks.

447. The United States stated it would be most interested in working group meetings, which provide an opportunity for technical cooperation. It stated it would like to see support from all RFMOs.

448. Australia, on behalf of FFA members, stated they could support ongoing meetings of the steering committee, if these were restricted to the Chairs and directors of the tuna RFMOs, and if they developed suggestions for areas of work where coordination and cooperation across the tuna RFMOs could lead to tangible outcomes. It does not support proposals for large global omnibus meetings of all tuna RFMO members as seen under previous iterations of the Kobe Process. Australia asked that the WCPFC Executive Director communicate this position when discussing the potential viability of reigniting the Kobe Process, either in the Kobe Steering Committee or in other forums such as the network of Regional Fisheries Bodies.

449. The EU requested that WCPFC be represented at the 2019 Tuna RFMO FAD working group meeting.

450. The Commission noted the update on the Kobe Process (WCPFC15-2018-30).

451. The Commission supported continued involvement by the Commission Chair and the Executive Director in meetings of the Kobe Process Steering Committee, and the participation in a 2019 meeting of the joint tuna RFMO FAD Working Group by the WCPFC FAD-IWG Chair and a member of the WCPFC Secretariat.

13.3 Research Projects

13.3.1 ABNJ Project

452. Janne Fogelgren (FAO ABNJ Tuna Project) introduced **WCPFC15-2018-31: Report to WCPFC on Progress of the Project Sustainable Management of Tuna Fisheries and Biodiversity Conservation in the ABNJ**. He thanked FAO's partners in the region (WCPFC, FFA, SPC, IATTC, and the government of Fiji), as well as ISSF, WWF and Birdlife International for their collaboration. FAO highlighted the large, successful electronic monitoring and surveillance program in Fiji, involving over 50 vessels, and a new project (to begin in 2019) in conjunction with ISSF to provide training and undertake trials on biodegradable FADs in the WCPO. They also noted the possible interest from The Global Environment Facility (GEF) in supporting a follow-up ABNJ project.

453. New Zealand, on behalf of FFA members, acknowledged many of the good outcomes of the various ABNJ tuna projects, particularly in the areas of bycatch mitigation and data improvement. They supported the proposed extension of the Common Oceans project through December 2019 and the associated work programme. Regarding the proposed Phase 2 of the ABNJ Project, FFA members stressed the need for any project development to be consistent with, and support, the WCPFC's priorities. They noted with disappointment that a Phase 2 planning meeting was scheduled at the same time as WCPFC15. They stated it was critical that the Commission was meaningfully engaged with the project coordinators to ensure that the WCPFC and the priorities of its CCMs are taken into account.
454. The EU supported the continuation of the project, and noted its contributions, especially in the area of bycatch mitigation. It also acknowledged the commitment and quality of the work of the coordinator of the project, Dr S. Clark, that have been instrumental in achieving the key objectives of the first phase of the project and allowing WCPFC to be a leading RFMO in terms of conservation and management of by catch species
455. Nauru on behalf of the PNA, fully supported the statement made by New Zealand on behalf of FFA members that any future ABNJ project must support rather than drive the objectives of WCPFC SIDS. They stated that while the ABNJ project has provided valuable input in many areas, it has also introduced some anomalies, such as the huge amount of time spent on shark and other bycatch issues at SC. Any future ABNJ project must be mindful of GEF's purpose, which is to assist developing countries and countries with economies in transition to achieve environmental outcomes and fulfil their international obligations. The purpose of GEF is not simply to supplement RFMO funding. They stated that the ABNJ project has delivered a range of benefits to WCPFC SIDS, but has also invested in a wide range of activities that are very loosely related to that overall purpose. They noted they will convey these views throughout the design phase, but requested that the Executive Director and all CCMs also be mindful of this when the design team conducts its consultation.
456. The United States echoed the sentiments expressed by other members, and noted it appreciated the hard work done by the project and encouraged the Secretariat to work with ABNJ in the design of a phase 2.

<p>457. The Commission noted the updates on Progress of the Project Sustainable Management of Tuna Fisheries and Biodiversity Conservation in the ABNJ (WCPFC15-2018-31).</p>
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13.3.2 Pacific Tuna Tagging Project

458. J. Hampton (SPC) introduced **WCPFC15-2018-32: Pacific Tuna Tagging Programme**, noting that the programme remains an important part of the Commission's science programme, and undertakes tuna tagging cruises each year. In 2018 the programme targeted bigeye tuna in the western tropical Pacific, and in 2019 the focus will be on skipjack within the warm pool. He noted the cooperation from many CCMs, including in assisting with the complex task of tag recovery, and noted in particular the observer programmes and fishery administrations that provide assistance with recovery.
459. Korea thanked SPC and the Secretariat and offered congratulations on the voyage conducted in 2017 targeting skipjack. Korea expressed its satisfaction that it could support the tagging program through voluntary contributions, which will continue through 2021.
460. RMI, on behalf of FFA members, thanked SPC for the report. They noted they had strongly supported the project at SC14, and value it highly because the tuna tagging data is becoming increasingly important in reducing the uncertainty in tropical assessments, and in providing an index of abundance

for the most valuable stock in the region, as well as helping with ageing, and migration and connectivity studies.

461. The Commission noted the updates on the Pacific Tuna Tagging Project (**WCPFC15-2018-32**).

13.3.3 WCPFC Tissue Bank – application of the Nagoya Protocol

462. J. Hampton (SPC) introduced **WCPFC15-2018-33: Project 35b: WCPFC Tuna Tissue Bank**, stating that it is an important science activity of the Commission that provides important biological inputs to the stock assessments. Implementation of the Nagoya protocol involves access to and sharing of genetic resources, and SPC, the Secretariat and the WCPFC Legal Adviser are working to assess any associated legal issues and will provide SC and the Commission with options to address any that arise.

463. Kiribati on behalf of FFA members, stated they supported Project 35b at SC14, including the recommendations to maintain and enhance the WCPFC Tissue Bank and its associated workplan and budget for 2019. They noted that the work is extremely important to many components of the Commission's work, particularly regarding the improvement of stock assessments. In addition, they highlighted the valuable work being completed by CCMs' observers and port samplers that are trained and tasked with collecting the biological samples, stating that their contribution is essential to the ongoing success of the Commission's work.

464. The United States supported the suggestion to seek technical advice to better understand the issues associated with the tissue bank and stated it would be happy to engage with the Secretariat and SPC, possibly through SC, to ensure any concerns it had were addressed.

465. The Commission noted the updates on Project 35b: WCPFC Tuna Tissue Bank (**WCPFC15-2018-33**).

13.3.4 WPEA Project

466. Dr SungKwon Soh (WCPFC Science Manager) introduced **WCPFC15-2018-34: Update on the WPEA Project**, which is active in Indonesia, the Philippines and Viet Nam. The project will be completed in April 2019. The third phase WPEA project (Western Pacific East Asia Improved Tuna Monitoring Activity) funded by New Zealand is expected to be fully implemented in 2019 and scheduled for completion in 2022. Key activities of the current WPEA project include:

- a) collection of tuna catch data and estimation of national annual tuna catch by species and by gear;
- b) capacity building in science;
- c) development of guidelines on adaptive management and monitoring of HMS to address climate change;
- d) market-based sustainability, including characterizing tuna supply chain in each country and establishing certification/eco-labeling systems;
- e) development of reference points and harvest control rules at national level;
- f) application of an EAFM to selected tuna fisheries;
- g) updating of national tuna management plans, and national tuna fishery profiles; and
- h) review of legal, policy and institutional arrangements in line with WCPFC requirements.

467. Tuvalu, on behalf of FFA members, stated that the WPEA project has provided the Commission with very valuable data on previously unavailable catch landings in Indonesia, Philippines and Viet Nam. They noted the project is now entering its third iteration with funding from New Zealand after two cycles of support under the GEF International Waters Initiative, and that data from this project is crucial to the ongoing refinement of stock assessment models prepared by SPC. They also noted a need to continue to improve data collection, especially in artisanal fisheries, and asked the countries involved to further enhance and resource this project.
468. Indonesia thanked WCPFC for supporting the project, noting the positive outcomes, both for Indonesia and other countries. It noted the development of a tuna management plan and harvest strategy work in its waters that will be compatible with the harvest strategy being developed for the WCPO. Indonesia also noted outputs in progress, and the increase in the capacity of its scientists and managers. Indonesia acknowledged the support from New Zealand for the third phase of the project.
469. The Philippines thanked the Commission, UNDP, SPC and the Secretariat for their support through the project. The Philippines looked forward to continuing cooperation with the Commission, and thanked New Zealand for its support.
470. Viet Nam stated that it was happy to be present and able to express its thanks to WCPFC for its help in implementing the project, stating its fisheries management has improved and the project helped in revising Viet Nam's fisheries law. The project also helped build capacity to collect fishery data and increase capacity in fisheries management. Viet Nam signalled its readiness to implement the project funded by New Zealand, which was just approved by its government. Viet Nam reiterated their interest in being a full member of WCPFC in the future.

471. The Commission noted the updates on the WPEA Project (**WCPFC15-2018-34**).

13.4 Election of Officers

472. The Commission made a number of appointments to Commission positions commencing in 2019:
- a) Ms. Jung-re Riley Kim (Korea) was appointed as WCPFC Chair, and Dr. Josie Tamata (Niue) as WCPFC Vice-Chair;
 - b) Mr. Jonathan Kidu (PNG) was appointed as a new FAC Co-Chair;
 - c) Mr. Laurence Edwards (RMI) was appointed as TCC Chair, and Dr. Robert Day (Canada) as TCC Vice-Chair; and
 - d) Mr. Masanori Miyahara (Japan) was appointed as NC Chair, and Mr. Michael Tosatto (United States) as NC Vice-Chair.
473. There were no nominations for SC vice-chair, so the position will remain vacant during 2019.
474. In support of 2019 Intersessional Working Group activities, to be progressed electronically, the Commission confirmed the following:
- a) Mr. Tom Graham (United States) would continue to lead the TCC Observer-related IWG;

- b) Ms. Sarah Williams (New Zealand) would continue to lead the South Pacific Albacore Roapmap IWG;
- c) Ms. Kerry Smith (Australia) would continue to lead the ERandEMWG; and
- d) Mr. Sam Lanwi (RMI) and Dr. Alex Kahl (United States) would co-chair the Transshipment Review IWG.

13.5 Future Meetings

- 475. The Chair noted that PNG had offered to host WCPFC16, which was confirmed by PNG.
- 476. Korea thanked PNG for offering to host WCPFC16, while expressing concerns regarding the high accommodation cost and security issues. Korea announced it would be making a financial contribution to help support participation by SIDS and territories at WCPFC16. Korea stated that it would consider how the contribution would be made but were considering a contribution to the SRF.
- 477. PNG acknowledged Korea's concerns, and stated these were being addressed, and that PNG would be communicating with the Secretariat as details were finalised.
- 478. Vanuatu supported PNG's interest in hosting WCPFC16, stating it had displayed the capacity to host large meetings.
- 479. RMI thanked Korea for its offer of support to SIDS and territories.

- 480. In 2019, the Commission agreed that:
 - a) **SC15** would be held on Monday 12th – Tuesday 20th August 2019 in Pohnpei;³
 - b) **NC15** would be held on Monday 2nd – Friday 6th September 2019 in Portland Oregon, USA;
 - c) **TCC15** would be held on Wednesday 25th September – Tuesday 1st October 2019 in Pohnpei;
 - d) **WCPFC16** would be held on Thursday 5th December – Wednesday 11th December in Port Moresby, PNG, with FAC13 and the HOD meeting held immediately prior to WCPFC16, on Wednesday, 4th December.

AGENDA ITEM 14 — OTHER MATTERS

- 481. No other matters were raised for discussion at WCPFC15.

AGENDA ITEM 15 — SUMMARY REPORT OF THE WCPFC15

- 482. The Chair outlined the process for adoption of the Summary Report for WCPFC15, with an outcomes document containing agreed decision points to be circulated to the Commission within seven

³ As agreed by the Commission intersessionally on 22 February 2019 (WCPFC Circular 2019/10)

working days following the close of the annual session, and the draft Summary Report to be provided as soon as possible. CCMs would be given thirty working days after circulation of the draft Summary Report to provide any changes. The complete Summary Report would be finalised intersessionally and posted on the Commission website; representatives would be advised accordingly.

AGENDA ITEM 16 — CLOSE OF MEETING

483. Samoa spoke on behalf of FFA members, the FFA Director-General and FFA Secretariat in thanking the Commission Chair for her work over the last 4 years. They stated she had guided the Commission well through sometimes turbulent seas. Samoa's comments were echoed by many of the members and observers present, who also wished the Chair every success in her next endeavours. They also congratulated the Vice-Chair on being confirmed as Chair beginning in 2019.
484. The Executive Director voiced his gratitude for the Chair's leadership and guidance in the work of the Commission, noting that in his various roles in many Pacific organisations he had never worked with a Chair who was as engaging, inspiring and easy to work with. He thanked the Chair for being a tremendous leader and a good friend to the Secretariat, and assured the incoming Chair that the Secretariat would offer her the same support and cooperation.
485. The Chair said that to call 2018 a busy year would be an understatement, but observed WCPFC15 was finishing before midnight. She thanked members for working through long days and late into the night, and for making good progress and delivering good outcomes to the Commission. She noted that it was a testimony to how important the Commission is, and why participants do the work. The Chair thanked the United States and Hawaii for welcoming the Commission to Honolulu, and expressed the hope that members would have the opportunity to enjoy Honolulu before returning home. She noted the lack of agreement on the harvest strategy dialogue and a consolidated sharks measure, but said that engagement on these issues would continue until agreement is reached. She noted the excellent progress on many other issues, including adopting a strong tropical tuna measure and other important CMMs, including a TRP for South Pacific albacore. She congratulated all CCMs for their hard work that culminated in these outcomes. She thanked CCMs for their warm appreciation, and the Executive Director and the Secretariat staff, as well as SPC, for their excellent support. She wished everyone success and expressed her full confidence in the incoming Chair.
486. The meeting closed at 9:25 pm on Friday, 14 December 2018.

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WCPFC15 Summary Report Attachment A – Attachment Z



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Opening Remarks by Executive Director

Madam Chair of the WCPFC; Rhea Moss-Christian
Hon Ministers
Heads of Delegations
Delegates
Ladies and gentlemen

As your Executive Director, let me join the Chair in extending to you all a warm welcome to Honolulu and to the 15th annual session of the Commission.

This annual session, in terms of hosting arrangements, is a little different as there is no official Host Government, as we are accustomed to, due to the mid-year decision to relocate the meeting venue.

The choice of the new meeting venue was dictated very much by logistical and costing expediency and I am grateful to the membership for their early agreement to the new venue given the time constraints the Secretariat had to find one and organized the necessary meeting arrangements.

Your Secretariat is also grateful to the United States government for a direct financial contribution to assist with the provision of refreshments at tea breaks; logistical support from both the US government and the Western Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Council (Team Kitty Simonds); and the US tuna industry for the lovely welcoming reception that we all enjoyed last night.

This meeting facility (Honolulu Convention Center) has a special place in the history of the WCPFC. It signifies the birth place of the Commission where its foundation document the WCPFC Convention (Honolulu Convention) was adopted and opened for signature on 4 September 2000.

As someone who was personally involved (in a different capacity) in the negotiations of the WCPFC Convention and one that was present at the auspicious (landmark) occasion when the Convention was adopted and signed by the initial signatories, this convention center certainly invoked very fond and treasured memories.

Hon Ministers and distinguished delegates.

In the course of this morning, I would be presenting my annual report for 2018. As the report will testify, this year has been quite a substantial year for the Commission judging by the extent of the intersessional workload that the Commission gave itself and the Secretariat. The outcomes of those intersessional work-streams will be reported to this meeting making for yet another substantial and formidable meeting agenda for the Commission to get through over the next five days.

Mindful of the workload that lies ahead for the Commission for this week, I will keep my remarks very brief. So let me make three quick points.

First. Since I assumed this role almost four years ago, it coincided with the adoption of the workplan for the adoption of harvest strategies. Over that period I have witnessed first hand the challenges the Commission encountered in progressing the implementation of the workplan. Admittedly, it is highly technical and complex work and I am convinced like others that the setting of the Commission is not ideal for transacting harvest strategy work. So, I am hoping that the Commission this week can progress the

suggestion for a science – management dialogue arrangement and agree on its TOR as the vehicle to expedite the implementation of the harvest strategy workplan.

Secondly, there has been a lot of work gone into the recent review of the compliance monitoring scheme and so as efforts to develop a new measure on the compliance monitoring scheme. I know there remain some fundamental differences on some key aspects of the draft new CMS measure. We also know as a fact that the current measure that operates the CMS will lapse at the end of this month. And not wanting to speak to those differences in the negotiations of the new measure, I will simply like to plea with members that there is a lot at stake if the Commission CMS ceases to function after this month because of lack of agreement on a measure that will allow the CMS to continue beyond this year.

Thirdly, I wish to re-highlight the need for a planning document for the Commission. Since, I assumed this role I had been vocal in advocating for such a document but obviously without much success. I hope that the discussion around the draft Corporate Plan under the suite of administrative issues will provide some impetus for a robust strategic planning discussion.

Hon Ministers distinguished delegates.

I think I will stop here. And I wish you all the best in your deliberations for the week. As usual your Secretariat stands ready to assist servicing your meeting .

Thank you

Opening Statement by Chair

Good morning and welcome to the 15th Regular Session of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission.

Excellencies, Honorable Ministers, WCPFC Executive Director Feleti Teo, Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

Hawaii is a special place for this Commission. On the 4th of September 2000 here in this Convention Center, after six intensive negotiating sessions over a three-year period, 28 members and participating territories sat in this very room and prepared to vote on the adoption of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Convention. Not all members supported the new Convention but Chairman Satya Nandan had no other choice but to declare that all efforts to reach agreement had been exhausted.

19 members voted in favor; 2 opposed; and 3 abstained -- the Convention was adopted.

Some of you who are here, today, were also in the room that day, mostly in different capacities. Mr. Liu Xiaobing, Dr. Penny Ridings, Mr. Feleti Teo, Ms. Barbara Hanchard, Dr. John Hampton, Ms. Kitty Simonds, Mr. Ray Clarke, Mr. Eugene Pangelinan, Dr. Sung Kwon Soh, Dr. Manu Tupou-Roosen, Mr. Mike Tosatto, Mr. Brian Hallman, Dr. Paul Callaghan, Mr. Maurice Brownjohn. And probably a few others...

I think many of us who were involved in that process recognized not only the significance of the outcome of that day, but also the work and challenges that would lie ahead.

Ours was the first international fisheries agreement to be adopted since the 1995 adoption of the United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement. As such, it incorporates key provisions of the Fish Stocks Agreement, including the principle of compatibility and the need to take into consideration the special requirements of developing States. These two principles, in particular, are especially important and unique to our Commission membership. Our Convention was also the first to adopt our own High Seas Boarding and Inspection procedures, based on the UN Fish Stocks Agreement. Ours was also the first to adopt the Precautionary Approach. We also developed a mechanism to support the participation of Territories in the Commission, in their own right. These are not small things and they add to the strength of our foundation that underpins our work.

Following six Preparatory Conferences, the Commission held its first meeting in 2004 in Pohnpei. The Commission adopted a report that was **9-pages long**. If an increase in report size alone is any indication of progress, then we have a *very* long way.

At that first session, the Secretariat was established and a budget of \$975,000 was agreed to. The budget that you are considering this week is just over \$8million.

Over the years, the Commission has adopted a total of 96 CMMs with 43 CMMs currently in force.

I share this history of our Convention with you to help remind us not only of how far we've come, but also to remind us of where we began. We are 18, now and it's important for us to think about our progress and to also take a moment to feel proud of our achievements.

But we must also ensure that we stay focused on the work ahead.

Measures are currently in place for the six key tuna species of the Commission and numerous measures are also in place for non-target, dependent and associated species. We have adopted a harvest strategy management approach for the future and continue to build the essential elements of that approach.

The Commission's monitoring, control and surveillance tools are now well established and robust monitoring both by individual CCMs at the national level and by the Commission Secretariat in its MCS programs, is underway.

Strong science continues to emerge from within our membership and through our scientific services provider and that scientific knowledge remains the cornerstone for our management decisions. [most of the time]

The partnerships that were formed well before the MHLC began, and that continued to endure throughout that process and to this day, form the foundation of this Commission. There is a linguistic, social and cultural continuum that unites East and SE Asia with the Pacific Islands. This continuum includes mega states like China, Japan, Indonesia, and Philippines, and micro states like Tuvalu and Nauru. These connections are more than superficial and bind all the members of the WCPFC that are located in the Western and Central Pacific. In that spirit, while national aspirations drive individual countries positions, a greater responsibility should be borne in mind stemming from the shared ancestry of the members of the Commission.

But we've seen in recent years just how difficult it is to agree on how our mandate should be achieved. Compromise and sacrifice do not come easily. This is the nature of the multilateral process.

In this Commission our deliberations impact livelihoods and future generations ---and the impacts are very real. What we discuss here has broad and potentially significant effect --*out there*. We may not always get it right and we may have to fail a bit before we succeed. But our mission is noble. The WCPFC represents the potential for a future where all stakeholders in our fishery can benefit from our marine resources. It's a future worth fighting for. It is deserving of your continued and strengthened efforts. It is deserving of your ongoing support.

Recently, two CCM Leaders issued some bold fisheries challenges. The President of the Marshall Islands challenged stakeholders in the region to eliminate IUU fishing by 2023. Shortly after, the President of the Federated States of Micronesia issued a challenge for Technology for Tuna Transparency that relies on a combination of monitoring and regional alliances to achieve full transparency in tuna fisheries by 2023.

It is no coincidence that two of the boldest challenges in our region's fisheries come from two of the most vulnerable island nations, whose economies and futures are acutely tied to the health of the tuna resources. WCPFC has the lead responsibility in meeting these challenges issued by two of its members at the highest level, and I believe we are already on this path. Putting a timeframe to these tasks ensures that we stay focused and continue to make progress every year.

Before I close, I want to take a moment, to remember a dear colleague who passed away earlier this year: Mr. Sanaila Naqali, who was the Deputy Secretary for Fisheries for Fiji. On behalf of the Commission, I offer our sincere condolences to Sanaila's friends and colleagues. We will miss his gentle and kind presence.

I want to thank Executive Director Feleti Teo and the entire staff of the WCPFC Secretariat for all their hard work throughout the year that has culminated in excellent documentation and arrangements for this meeting. I have not been involved in other RFMO's but I'm going to say this anyway: the WCPFC Secretariat produces the highest quality work of all the RFMOs. The level of quality work by the Secretariat is exceptional and appreciated.

Likewise, on behalf of the Commission, I want to also express sincere gratitude to the United States and the state and people of Hawaii for welcoming us once again to your shores. The arrangements for meetings in Honolulu are always exceptional and we have Ms. Kitty Simonds and her team to be thankful for in that regard.

The Hawaiian ancestral call in the OLI and the blessings that we received in the PULE this morning are powerful reminders of where we, this Commission, come from. And this location, the Hawaii Convention Center, has its own significance, as well. This Convention Center sits on the west end of Waikiki, which

was the seat of government in the 1400s. In 1809, Kamehameha I moved his Royal Court to Waikiki. Eventually it became a retreat for the Hawaiian royalty. Being here certainly makes us feel majestic.

Like the highly migratory fish stocks, I, too, have highly migrated throughout this Commission, having sat as a delegate for three different CCMs at Commission meetings over the years since 1997. I have seen from the perspective of a DWFN and two different Small Island Developing States members the importance of this Commission in safeguarding the interests of all members. Like any family, we have our disagreements and our conflicts, but our objective at the end of the day is a shared one. We must not lose sight of that.

I look forward to our deliberations over the next five days and to adopting outcomes that continue to build on the achievements of the last 18 years, and I thank you in advance for your efforts.

It is with great honor that I now declare the 15th Regular Session of the WCPFC, OPEN.

Thank you.



**COMMISSION
FIFTEENTH REGULAR SESSION**
Honolulu, Hawaii, USA
10 – 14 December 2018

ADOPTED AGENDA

AGENDA ITEM 1. OPENING OF MEETING

- 1.1 Adoption of agenda
- 1.2 Statements from Members and Participating Territories
- 1.3 Meeting arrangements
 - 1.3.1 Establishment of small working groups (CNMs, CMR, others)
 - 1.3.2 Hosting arrangements for WCPFC annual sessions hosted by SIDS

AGENDA ITEM 2. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

AGENDA ITEM 3. MEMBERSHIP AND OTHER APPLICATIONS

- 3.1 Status of the Convention
- 3.2 Update on Observer status
- 3.3 Applications for Cooperating Non-Member (CNM) status
 - 3.3.1 Participatory rights of CNMs

AGENDA ITEM 4. NEW PROPOSALS

AGENDA ITEM 5. SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS OF DEVELOPING STATES

- 5.1 Implementation of Article 30 of WCPFC Convention and CMM 2013-07 (SIDS special requirements)
- 5.2 Strategic Investment Plan by the FAC Special Requirements Fund Virtual Working Group

AGENDA ITEM 6. WCPO TUNA AND BILLFISH STOCKS

Relevant outcomes from meetings of subsidiary bodies, intersessional working groups and other relevant sources will be presented to facilitate discussions under this agenda item. Some elements of the Harvest Strategy Work Plan for the adoption of harvest strategies under CMM 2014-06 are integrated into the discussions under this agenda item.

- 6.1 General overview of stock status (bigeye, skipjack, SP albacore, yellowfin, Pacific bluefin, NP albacore and NP swordfish)
- 6.2 South Pacific Albacore
 - 6.2.1 Roadmap for effective conservation and management of SP albacore
 - 6.2.2 Target reference point
 - 6.2.3 Harvest control rules
 - 6.2.4 Management strategy evaluation
 - 6.2.5 Review of CMM 2015-02 (SP albacore)
- 6.3 Bigeye, Skipjack and Yellowfin
 - 6.3.1 Review of CMM 2017-01 (bigeye, skipjack, yellowfin)
 - 6.3.1.1 FAD Management Options-IWG report

- 6.3.2 Target reference point (bigeye and yellowfin)
- 6.3.3 Harvest control rules (skipjack)
- 6.3.4 Management strategy evaluation (skipjack)
- 6.4 Pacific bluefin
 - 6.4.1 Review of CMM 2017-08
- 6.5 North Pacific albacore
 - 6.5.1 Review of CMM-2005-03
- 6.6 North Pacific striped marlin
 - 6.6.1 Designation as a Northern stock and rebuilding plan
- 6.7 Others

AGENDA ITEM 7: HARVEST STRATEGY

Discussion will focus on the remaining 2018 elements of the Agreed Work Plan for the Adoption of Harvest Strategies under CMM 2014-06, covering South Pacific albacore, skipjack, bigeye and yellowfin not integrated into agenda item 6. The Northern Committee will provide update on harvest strategies relating to Northern stocks.

- 7.1 Management objectives (all stocks/fisheries)
- 7.2 Monitoring Strategy (all stocks/fisheries)
- 7.3 Harvest Strategy for Pacific bluefin, NP albacore and NP Swordfish
- 7.4 Terms of Reference for a Science-Management Dialogue
- 7.5 Review of Work Plan

AGENDA ITEM 8: WCPO SHARK STOCKS AND BYCATCH MITIGATION

Relevant outcomes from meetings of subsidiary bodies, intersessional working groups and other relevant sources will be presented to facilitate discussions under this agenda item.

- 8.1 Report of the Shark-IWG, including Proposal for a Comprehensive CMM for Sharks and Rays
- 8.2 Proposal for Best Practice Guidelines for Safe Release of Sharks
- 8.3 North Pacific blue shark – designation as a Northern stock
- 8.4 Review of CMM 2017-06 on Seabirds
- 8.5 Review of CMM 2008-03 on Sea Turtles
- 8.6 Others

AGENDA ITEM 9: ADOPTION OF REPORTS FROM SUBSIDIARY BODIES

The reports of the subsidiary bodies will be taken as read and will not be presented to the Commission. However, recommendations of subsidiary bodies not addressed under other agenda items will be considered under this agenda item. A list of those recommendations will be provided in dedicated reference document.

- 9.1 SC14
- 9.2 NC14
- 9.3 TCC14
- 9.4 ERandEM-IWG3

AGENDA ITEM 10: COMPLIANCE MONITORING SCHEME

- 10.1 Consideration and adoption of the Final Compliance Monitoring Report (CMR)
- 10.2 Review of the Compliance Monitoring Scheme
 - 10.2.1 Report from the Independent Panel to review the Compliance Monitoring Scheme
 - 10.2.2 Report of the CMS-IWG, including Proposal for a CMM for the Compliance Monitoring Scheme
- 10.3 Expiry of CMM 2017-07 at the end of 2018

AGENDA ITEM 11: ADOPTION OF THE 2019 IUU VESSEL LIST

AGENDA ITEM 12: REPORT OF THE TWELFTH ANNUAL SESSION OF THE FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

- 12.1 Report of the Twelfth Finance and Administration Committee
- 12.2 Budget approval for 2019 and Indicative Budgets for 2020 and 2021

AGENDA ITEM 13: ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

- 13.1 Corporate Plan
- 13.2 Kobe Process
- 13.3 Research projects
 - 13.3.1 ABNJ Project
 - 13.3.2 Pacific Tuna Tagging Project
 - 13.3.3 WCPFC Tissue Bank – application of Nagoya Protocol
 - 13.3.4 WPEA Project
- 13.4 Election of officers
- 13.5 Future meetings

AGENDA ITEM 14: OTHER MATTERS

AGENDA ITEM 15: SUMMARY REPORT OF THE WCPFC15

AGENDA ITEM 16: CLOSE OF MEETING



COMMISSION
FIFTEENTH REGULAR SESSION
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RESOLUTION ON LABOUR STANDARDS FOR CREW ON FISHING VESSELS

Resolution 2018-01

The Commission for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stock in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean,

Recalling Articles 6 and 8 of the 1995 FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries which set out international standards, including labour standards for the responsible conduct of fishing operations to ensure fair work and living conditions;

Noting the Commission has to consider adopting generally accepted international minimum labour standards for the responsible conduct of fishing operations;

Noting the increasing global attention to instances of poor labour conditions and mistreatment of crews including forced labour and child labour on board fishing vessels;

Acknowledging the important role played by crew members in assisting the conduct of fishing vessel operations in compliance with WCPFC Conservation and Management Measures, and the central role that crew members play in contributing to effective fishing operations;

Recalling efforts that WCPFC Members have made in recent years in improving the conditions and welfare of observers on board fishing vessels, and acknowledging the equal importance of the welfare of crew members;

Reaffirming the importance of the responsibilities of flag States under international law regarding fishing vessels flying their flag, including with respect to safety at sea and labour conditions on fishing vessels;

Mindful that WCPFC Member Small Island Developing States and Participating Territories have a legitimate interest in increasing the participation of their labour force in the crewing of vessels that catch highly migratory fish stocks in their waters, and that CCMs are interested in promoting safe and decent employment for their nationals;

Resolves that:

1. CCMs are encouraged to make every effort to ensure that their relevant national legislation fully extends to all crew working on fishing vessels flying their flag in the WCPFC Convention Area and, where appropriate and applicable, CCMs are encouraged to adopt measures into their national legislation to establish minimum standards regulating crew labour conditions. CCMs are further encouraged to ensure the adequate enforcement of all relevant legislation, including

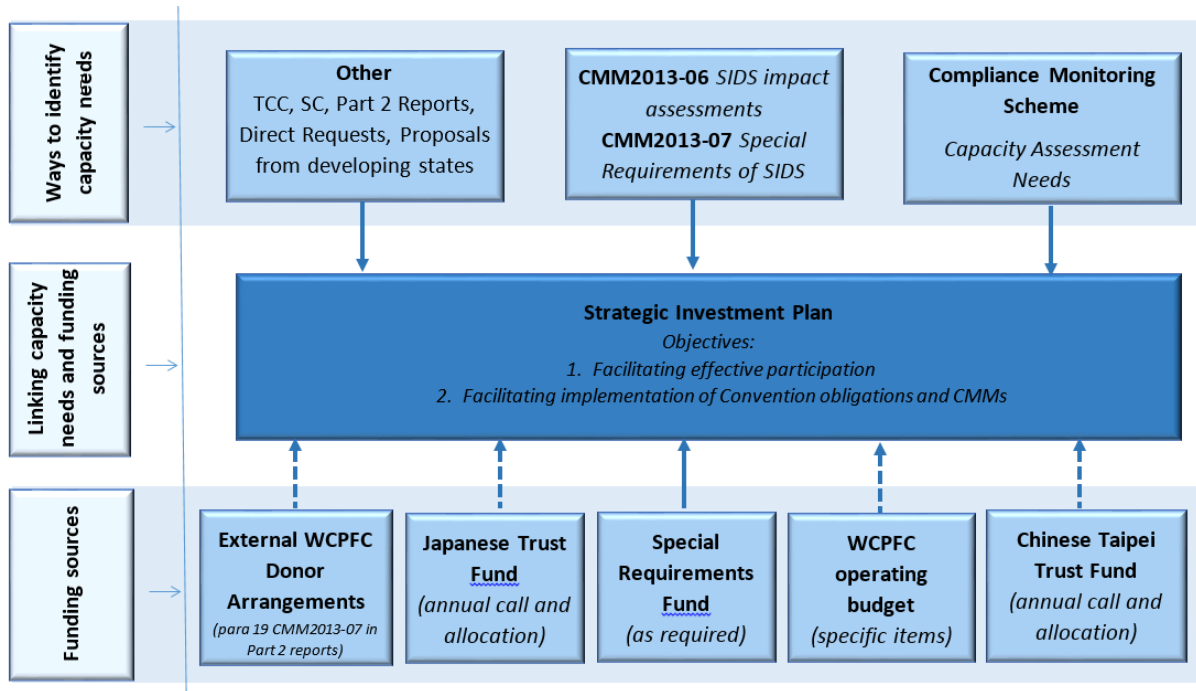
by identifying and prosecuting breaches of relevant national laws relating to the treatment of crew by vessel operators landing fish in their ports or operating in their waters.

2. CCMs are encouraged to implement measures, consistent with generally accepted international minimum standards for crew on fishing vessels, where applicable, to ensure fair working conditions on board for all crew working on fishing vessels flying their flag and operating within the WCPF Convention area, including, *inter alia*:
 - a) A safe and secure working environment with minimum risk to health and wellbeing;
 - b) Fair terms of employment, that are enshrined in a written contract or in equivalent measures, which are made available to the employee, in a form and language that facilitates the employee's understanding of the terms and is agreed by the employee;
 - c) Decent working and living conditions on board vessels, including access to sufficient fresh water and food, operational safety protection and medical care, and that facilitate acceptable standards of sanitary hygiene;
 - d) Decent and regular remuneration as well as appropriate insurance for the crew; and
 - e) Providing crew members with the opportunity to disembark, and seek repatriation if so entitled.
3. CCMs are encouraged to work with any entities involved in recruitment of crew to implement the provisions of this Resolution.
4. CCMs are encouraged to apply and, where appropriate, strengthen effective jurisdiction and control over vessels flying their flag and to exercise due diligence to improve and enforce requirements regarding labour conditions on board fishing vessels.
5. All CCMs are encouraged to share progress on implementation of this Resolution annually to the Commission.
6. To implement this Resolution, developed CCMs are encouraged to make concerted efforts and consider innovative options to assist developing CCMs – both flag CCMs and coastal CCMs – in the development and strengthening of relevant domestic legislation and in the enforcement of that legislation, including working with local industries (which includes labour agents) to help them meet the minimum standards in this Resolution.

2018 Strategic Investment Plan

Introduction

1. The Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC), at its 14th meeting in Manila, Philippines, agreed to the development of a Strategic Investment Plan.
2. The purpose of the Strategic Investment Plan is to match capacity and capability requirements of developing states and territories with appropriate investment strategies as outlined in the following diagram:



Objectives

3. The objectives of the Strategic Investment Plan are to support:
 - effective input and participation of member developing states and territories in the meetings of the Commission; and
 - development of management and technical capability and capacity in developing states and territories to enable them to implement obligations under the WCPFC Convention and Conservation and Management Measures (CMMs).

Funding

4. Funding options are illustrated in the diagram above and the WCPFC Secretariat has a role in ensuring capacity needs identified in this Strategic Investment Plan are addressed over the coming year. This includes provision of information to developing state and territory members on how to access funds and notification to members when funds are needed. This will assist the Commission as a whole meet the requirements of Article 30 of the Convention¹.

¹ Convention on the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean, 2000

Capacity needs recommended by the Technical and Compliance Committee (TCC)

5. The following Capacity Assistance Need areas were recommended by TCC14 in the Compliance Monitoring Report:

Kiribati for 5% ROP observer Coverage	Capacity Development Plan (CDP) submitted to TCC14	Assistance and funding is being sought from SPC
New Caledonia for VMS assistance	CDP submitted to TCC14	WCPFC technical assistance in country will be provided to New Caledonia in first quarter of 2019. New Caledonia has requested to attend a FFA VMS training, this has not been arranged as of yet.
Indonesia for Scientific data provision	CDP submitted to TCC13	Assistance and funding is being sought from SPC

Capacity needs identified through WCPFC Annual Report Part 2

6. The following areas of capacity assistance were identified by CCMs in their Annual Report Part 2 RY2017 as identified in paragraph 28 of the Compliance Monitoring Report:

CMM	Notes about types of assistance requested	CCM
CMM 2006-08 - High Seas Boarding and Inspection CMM 2017-02 - Port Inspections	Some assistance has been received in work attachments, and supply of boarding gear. Additional assistance is needed in 1) information system (licensing and permitting database); 2) boarding and inspection database; 3) centralized database; 4) more staff for monitoring and data collection.	Fiji
CMM 2013-07 04-05 - Capacity development for personnel	Some assistance has been received in investigation training. Additional training is needed, including in work attachments, for database and data analysis. Assistance is needed in understanding CMMs. Need additional observer training and coordination Funding for international meetings	Fiji Solomon Islands Vanuatu
CMM 2013-07 10-11 - Capacity development for MCS activities	Some assistance has been received in investigation training and attachments. Additional resources needed for purchase of additional patrol assets (helicopters/aircraft and vessels). Assistance is needed to conduct international compliance inspections Assistance and support is needed to recognize the efforts that small islands with limited capacity make to comply with all CMMs and to investigate any alleged infringements by their vessels or occurring in their waters.	Fiji Kiribati
CMM 2017-06 - Seabird mitigation	Assistance in developing of seabird mitigation plan	Vanuatu

Capacity needs identified through the SRF Intersessional Working Group process

7. An analysis of conceptual capacity needs to meet the objectives of the Strategic Investment Plan (see paragraph 3 above) was conducted and WCPFC members were asked to rank these needs in terms of priority.

8. Current development assistance was identified from open source data and assessed against each capacity need area. A summary of the findings is provided at **Attachment A**. The broad conclusion was that nearly all capacity needs have a funding stream associated.

9. The main gap identified was an explicit mechanism to support effective participation. The following proposal is included in the Strategic Investment Plan to fill this void.

Title: Enabling effective participation in the WCPFC
Obligation: Article 30
Capacity Building Assistance Needed: Support to effectively input and participate in meetings of the WCPFC. This includes support for: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• travel to the Science Committee, the Technical and Compliance Committee and/or the main meeting of the Commission, and• in-country capacity building prior to and post WCPFC meetings to help build capacity to engage and to institutionalise outcomes of the meetings (existing Secretariat support built into WCPFC budget). <p>It is noted that the level of assistance required will vary between members, so should remain flexible to the needs of the country. This will depend on the sovereign interests of the member, including the scale of WCPFC fishery interests, the capacity of the administration to engage in the program and the priority afforded to this over other interests.</p> <p>Parameters around accessing the program will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• limit to one participant per country per meeting (or as funding allows) – this is in addition to the one participant already funded for each meeting from the WCPFC operational budget
Timeframe: Ongoing, annual calls by the Secretariat for participation in the funded program
Cost: up to USD300,000 annually

ATTACHMENT A

Thematic capacity needs	Rank 1 = highest; 18 = lowest priority	Funding support available (see Attachment B for recipients)
17. Disproportionate burden & economic development	1	Australia, the EU, ABNJ project, FFA, OFMP2, NZ, PROP, US and the SRF
3. Capacity to understand, evaluate and implement harvest strategies	2	Australia, the EU, ABNJ project, FFA, OFMP2, NZ, PROP, US, the SRF and SPC
11. Capacity to collect data and meet reporting obligations	3	All donors
16. Capacity to establish and implement other MCS & enforcement measures	4	All donors
18. Additional capacity building needs	5	All donors – except meeting support
2. Capacity to implement legal and policy aspects of managing fishing authorisations/licensing & related issues	6	Australia, the EU, ABNJ project, FFA, OFMP2, Japan, NZ, PROP, US and the SRF
4. Capacity to regulate, implement, monitor and enforce tropical tuna measures	7	Australia, the EU, FFA, OFMP2, Japan, NZ, PROP, US and the SRF
15. Capacity to establish, implement and enforce port State measures	8	All donors
1. Capacity to understand and effectively implement technical & operational aspects of managing fishing authorisations/licensing and related requirements	9	Australia, the EU, ABNJ project, FFA, OFMP2, Japan, NZ, PROP, US and the SRF
5. Capacity to regulate, implement, monitor and enforce rules related to albacore and Pacific Bluefin tuna	10	Australia, the EU, FFA, OFMP2, NZ, PROP and the SRF
13. Capacity to regulate, monitor and enforce rules relating to transshipment	11	All donors
14. Capacity needs relating to the administration, training, provision and work of observers, including in relation to the Regional Observer Program (ROP).	12	All donors
9. Purse seine rules relating to non-target species	13	Australia, the EU, ABNJ project, FFA, OFMP2, NZ, PROP and the SRF
12. Capacity to implement and use vessel monitoring system	13	All donors
8. Capacity to implement rules relating to other non-target species	15	Australia, the EU, ABNJ project, FFA, OFMP2, NZ, PROP and the SRF
7. Capacity to regulate, implement, monitor and enforce rules relating to sharks	16	Australia, the EU, ABNJ project, FFA, OFMP2, NZ, PROP and the SRF
6. Capacity to implement rules relating to billfish species	17	Australia, the EU, FFA, OFMP2, NZ, PROP and the SRF
10. Capacity to regulate, implement, monitor and enforce fishing gear restrictions	18	Australia, CTTF, the EU, ABNJ project, FFA, OFMP2, NZ, PROP and the SRF

ATTACHMENT B

Donor/program	Eligible Recipients
Australia: various programs	Pacific island countries and Pacific regional
WCPFC Chinese Taipei Trust Fund	Developing states party to the WCPFC Convention, in particular SIDS
European Union: Pacific-EU Marine Partnership (PEUMP)	PACP countries and Pacific regional
FAO GEF: Sustainable Management of Tuna Fisheries and Biodiversity Conservation of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ project)	WCPFC, PNA, FFA
FFA: various programs	Pacific island FFA members
GEF/UNDP/FAO Pacific Islands Oceanic Fisheries Management Project II (OFMP 2)	FFA, SPC, MSG, Pacific SIDS, PITIA, WWF
WCPFC Japanese Trust Fund	Developing states party to the WCPFC Convention, in particular SIDS
New Zealand: various programs	Pacific SIDS, PICTs, FFA, SPC; Indonesia, Philippines, Vietnam through WCPFC
World Bank/GEF: Pacific Islands Regional Oceanscape Program (PROP)	FSM, RMI, SI, Tuvalu, FFA
US: various programs	All WCPFC members



**COMMISSION
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**CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURE FOR BIGEYE, YELLOWFIN
AND SKIPJACK TUNA IN THE WESTERN AND CENTRAL PACIFIC OCEAN**

Conservation and Management Measure 2018-01*

PREAMBLE

The Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC):

Recalling that since 1999, in the Multilateral High Level Conferences, the Preparatory Conferences, and in the Commission for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (the Commission), a number of resolutions and Conservation and Management Measures (CMMs) have been developed to prevent or mitigate the overfishing of bigeye and yellowfin tuna and to limit the growth of fishing capacity in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean;

Recalling that the objective of the Convention on the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (the Convention) is to ensure through effective management, the long-term conservation and sustainable use of the highly migratory fish stocks of the Western and Central Pacific Ocean in accordance with the 1982 Convention and the Agreement;

Recalling further the final statement of the Chairman of the Multilateral High Level Conferences in 2000 that: "It is important to clarify, however, that the Convention applies to the waters of the Pacific Ocean. In particular, the western side of the Convention Area is not intended to include waters of South-East Asia which are not part of the Pacific Ocean, nor is it intended to include waters of the South China Sea as this would involve States which are not participants in the Conference" (Report of the Seventh and Final Session, 30th August- 5 September 2000, p.29);

Recognizing that the Scientific Committee has determined that the bigeye stock appears not to be experiencing overfishing and is not in an overfished condition and that the fishing mortality of bigeye should not be increased from the current level to maintain current or increased spawning biomass; that the yellowfin stock appears not to be experiencing overfishing and is not in an overfished condition and the current spawning biomass levels should be maintained; and that skipjack is currently moderately exploited, the fishing mortality level is sustainable, and that the spawning biomass be maintained near the target reference point;

** Version issued 2 May 2019*

Recognizing further the interactions that occur between the fisheries for bigeye, yellowfin, and skipjack tuna;

Noting that Article 30(1) of the Convention requires the Commission to give full recognition to the special requirements of developing States that are Parties to the Convention, in particular small island developing States and Territories and possessions, in relation to the conservation and management of highly migratory fish stocks in the Convention Area and development of fisheries on such stocks, including the provision of financial, scientific, and technological assistance;

Noting further that Article 30(2) of the Convention requires the Commission to take into account the special requirements of developing States, in particular Small Island developing States and Territories. This includes ensuring that conservation and management measures adopted by it do not result in transferring, directly or indirectly, a disproportionate burden of conservation action onto developing States, Parties, and Territories;

Noting that Article 8(1) of the Convention which requires compatibility of conservation and management measures established for the high seas and those adopted for areas under national jurisdiction;

Recalling Article 8(4) of the Convention which requires the Commission to pay special attention to the high seas in the Convention Area that are surrounded by exclusive economic zones (EEZs);

Noting that the Parties to the Nauru Agreement (PNA) have adopted and implemented “A Third Arrangement Implementing The Nauru Agreement Setting Forth Additional Terms And Conditions Of Access To The Fisheries Zones Of The Parties”;

Noting further that the Parties to the Nauru Agreement have adopted and implemented a Vessel Day Scheme for the longline fishery, a Vessel Day Scheme for the purse seine fishery and a registry for FADs in the zones of the Parties, and may establish longline effort limits, or equivalent catch limits for longline fisheries within their exclusive economic zones.

Noting furthermore that the Members of the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency have indicated their intention to adopt a system of zone-based longline limits to replace the current system of flag-based bigeye catch limits within their EEZs, and a system of zone-based FAD set limits to replace the FAD closure and flag-based FAD set limits in their EEZs;

Acknowledging that the Commission has adopted a limit reference point (LRP) for bigeye, skipjack, and yellowfin tuna of 20% of the estimated recent average spawning biomass in the absence of fishing, and, for skipjack tuna, has also agreed to an interim target reference point (TRP) of 50% of the recent average spawning biomass in the absence of fishing (CMM 2015-06);

Acknowledging that the Commission has adopted CMM 2014-06 on Establishing a Harvest Strategy for Key Fisheries and Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean and a Work Plan to guide the development of key components of a Harvest Strategy, including the

recording of management objectives, adoption of reference points, and development of harvest control rules;

Adopts in accordance with Article 10 of the Convention, the following Conservation and Management Measure with respect to bigeye, yellowfin, and skipjack tuna:

PURPOSE

1. Pending the establishment of harvest strategies, and any implementing CMM, the purpose of this measure is to provide for a robust transitional management regime that ensures the sustainability of bigeye, skipjack, and yellowfin tuna stocks.

PRINCIPLES FOR APPLICATION OF THE MEASURE

Compatibility

2. Conservation and management measures established for the high seas and those adopted for areas under national jurisdiction shall be compatible in order to ensure conservation and management of bigeye, skipjack, and yellowfin tuna stocks in their entirety. Measures shall ensure, at a minimum, that stocks are maintained at levels capable of producing maximum sustainable yield, pending agreement on target reference points as part of the harvest strategy approach, as qualified by relevant environmental and economic factors including the special requirements of developing States in the Convention Area as expressed by Article 5 of the Convention.

Area of Application

3. This Measure applies to all areas of high seas and all EEZs in the Convention Area except where otherwise stated in the Measure.

4. Coastal states are encouraged to take measures in archipelagic waters and territorial seas which are consistent with the objectives of this Measure and to inform the Commission Secretariat of the relevant measures that they will apply in these waters.

Small Island Developing States

5. With the exception of paragraphs 16-25, 31, 33-38, and 50-54, nothing in this Measure shall prejudice the rights and obligations of those small island developing State Members and Participating Territories in the Convention Area seeking to develop their domestic fisheries.

6. For the avoidance of doubt, where the term "SIDS" is used throughout this measure, the term includes Participating Territories. The term "CCM" means Members, Cooperating Non-Members and Participating Territories.

7. In giving effect to this CMM, the Commission shall pay attention to:
 - (a) the geographical situation of a small island developing State which is made up of non-contiguous groups of islands having a distinct economic and cultural identity of their own but which are separated by areas of high seas;
 - (b) the special circumstances of a State which is surrounded by the exclusive economic zones of other States and has a limited exclusive economic zone of its own; and
 - (c) the need to avoid adverse impacts on subsistence, small-scale and artisanal fishers.

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Charter Arrangements

8. For the purposes of paragraphs 39-41 and 45-49, attribution of catch and effort shall be to the flag State, except that catches and effort of vessels notified as chartered under CMM 2016-05 or its replacement shall be attributed to the chartering Member, or Participating Territory. Attribution for the purpose of this Measure is without prejudice to attribution for the purposes of establishing rights and allocation.

9. For purposes of paragraphs 39-41 and 45-49, catches and effort of United States flagged vessels operating under agreements with its Participating Territories shall be attributed to the Participating Territories. Such agreements shall be notified to the Commission in the form of notification under CMM 2016-05 or its replacement. Attribution for the purpose of this Measure is without prejudice to attribution for the purposes of establishing rights and allocation.

Overlap Area

10. Where flag CCMs choose to implement IATTC measures in the overlap area, any calculation of limits for the Convention Area (excluding the overlap area) that are done on the basis of historical catch or effort levels, shall exclude historical catch or effort within the overlap area. Notwithstanding decisions on application of catch and/or effort limits, all other provisions of this measure apply to all vessels fishing in the overlap area.

HARVEST STRATEGIES AND INTERIM OBJECTIVES FOR BIGEYE, SKIPJACK, AND YELLOWFIN TUNA

11. This measure is to create a bridge to the adoption of a harvest strategy for bigeye, skipjack, and yellowfin tuna stocks and/or fisheries in accordance with the work plan and indicative timeframes set out in the Agreed Work Plan for the Adoption of Harvest Strategies under CMM 2014-06, which includes the development of management objectives and target reference points. Taking into account the bridging role of this measure and the uncertainty framework for evaluating the impact of management measures on the bigeye stock, the Commission shall work towards achieving and sustaining the aims in paragraphs 12 to 14.

Bigeye

12. Pending agreement on a target reference point the spawning biomass depletion ratio ($SB/SB_{F=0}$) is to be maintained at or above the average $SB/SB_{F=0}$ for 2012-2015.

Skipjack

13. The spawning biomass of skipjack tuna is to be maintained on average at a level consistent with the interim target reference point of 50% of the spawning biomass in the absence of fishing, adopted in accordance with CMM 2015-06.

Yellowfin

14. Pending agreement on a target reference point the spawning biomass depletion ratio ($SB/SB_{F=0}$) is to be maintained at or above the average $SB/SB_{F=0}$ for 2012-2015.

15. The Commission at its 2019 annual session shall review and revise the aims set out in paragraphs 12 to 14 in light of advice from the Scientific Committee.

PURSE SEINE FISHERY

FAD Set Management

16. A three (3) months (July, August and September) prohibition of deploying, servicing or setting on FADs shall be in place between 0001 hours UTC on 1 July and 2359 hours UTC on 30 September each year for all purse seine vessels, tender vessels, and any other vessels operating in support of purse seine vessels fishing in exclusive economic zones and the high seas in the area between 20°N and 20°S.¹

17. In addition to the three month FAD closure in paragraph 16, except for those vessels flying the Kiribati flag when fishing in the high seas adjacent to the Kiribati exclusive economic zone,² and Philippines' vessels operating in HSP1 in accordance with Attachment 2, it shall be prohibited to deploy, service or set on FADs in the high seas for two additional sequential months of the year. Each CCM shall decide which two sequential months (either April – May

¹ Members of the PNA may implement the FAD set management measures consistent with the Third Arrangement Implementing the Nauru Agreement of May 2008. Members of the PNA shall provide notification to the Commission of the domestic vessels to which the FAD closure will not apply. That notification shall be provided within 15 days of the arrangement being approved.

² Those vessels fishing within a 100 nautical mile buffer zone extending from the high seas adjacent to the Cook Islands shall inform Kiribati and the Cook Islands authorities at least 24 hours prior to entry into and 24 hours prior to the exit from the buffer zone with estimated coordinates for entry and exit. Each report shall contain the vessel name, international radio call sign and position at time of reporting.

or November – December) shall be closed to setting on FADs by their fleets in the high seas for 2018, 2019 and 2020 and notify the Secretariat of that decision by March 1, 2018.#

The Secretariat notes that WCPFC15 didn't sanction any specific revision to this paragraph but in 2019 some CCMs have notified a different choice of two sequential months to that notified in 2018.

18. The provisions of paragraphs 3 to 7 of CMM 2009-02 apply to the high seas FAD closures. In applying the provisions of paragraphs 16 and 17, any set where small amounts of plastic or small garbage that do not have a tracking buoy attached are detected shall not be considered to be a FAD set for the purposes of the FAD closure. This shall apply in 2019 only and will be reviewed to determine whether it resulted in increased catch of bigeye and small yellowfin tuna.

Non-entangling FADs

19. To reduce the risk of entanglement of sharks, sea turtles or any other species, as from 1st January 2020, CCMs shall ensure that the design and construction of any FAD to be deployed in, or that drifts into, the WCPFC Convention Area shall comply with the following specifications:

- The floating or raft part (flat or rolled structure) of the FAD can be covered or not. To the extent possible the use of mesh net should be avoided. If the FAD is covered with mesh net, it must have a stretched mesh size less than 7 cm (2.5 inches) and the mesh net must be well wrapped around the whole raft so that there is no netting hanging below the FAD when it is deployed.
- The design of the underwater or hanging part (tail) of the FAD should avoid the use of mesh net. If mesh net is used, it must have a stretched mesh size of less than 7 cm (2.5 inches) or tied tightly in bundles or “sausages” with enough weight at the end to keep the netting taut down in the water column. Alternatively, a single weighted panel (less than 7 cm (2.5 inches) stretched mesh size net or solid sheet such as canvas or nylon) can be used.

20. To reduce the amount of synthetic marine debris, the use of natural or biodegradable materials for FADs should be promoted. The use of non-plastic and biodegradable materials in the construction of FADs is encouraged.

21. The Scientific Committee shall continue to review research results on the use of non-entangling material and biodegradable material on FADs, and shall provide specific recommendations to the Commission as appropriate.

22. The Commission at its 2020 annual session, based on specific guidelines defined by the FAD Management Options Intersessional Working Group and advice from SC16 and TCC16 shall consider the adoption of measures on the implementation of non-entangling and/or biodegradable material on FADs.

Instrumented Buoys

23. A flag CCM shall ensure that each of its purse seine vessels shall have deployed at sea, at any one time, no more than 350 drifting Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs) with activated

instrumented buoys. An instrumented buoy is defined as a buoy with a clearly marked reference number allowing its identification and equipped with a satellite tracking system to monitor its position. The buoy shall be activated exclusively on board the vessel. A flag CCM shall ensure that its vessels operating in the waters of a coastal State comply with the laws of that coastal State relating to FAD management, including FAD tracking.

24. The Commission at its 2019 annual session, based on consideration in the FAD Management Options Intersessional Working Group, shall review whether the number of FADs deployed as set out in paragraph 23 is appropriate.

Zone-based purse seine effort control

25. Coastal CCMs within the Convention Area shall restrict purse seine effort and/or catch of skipjack, yellowfin and bigeye tuna within their EEZs in accordance with the effort limits established and notified to the Commission and set out in Table 1 of Attachment 1. Those coastal CCMs that have yet to notify limits to the Commission shall do so by 31 December 2018.

High seas purse seine effort control³

26. CCMs that are not Small Island Developing States shall restrict the level of purse seine effort on the high seas in the area 20°N to 20°S to the limits set out in Attachment 1, Table 2, except that the Philippines shall take measures on the high seas in accordance with Attachment 2.

27. CCMs shall ensure that the effectiveness of these effort limits for the purse seine fishery are not undermined by a transfer of effort in days fished into areas within the Convention Area south of 20°S. In order not to undermine the effectiveness of these effort limits, CCMs shall not transfer fishing effort in days fished in the purse seine fishery to areas within the Convention Area north of 20°N.

28. The limits set out in Attachment 1, Table 2 do not confer the allocation of rights to any CCM and are without prejudice to future decisions of the Commission. By 2020 the Commission shall agree on hard effort or catch limits in the high seas of the Convention Area and a framework for the allocation of those limits in the high seas amongst all Members and Participating Territories that adequately take into account Articles 8, 10 (3) and 30 of the Convention. The Commission shall also consider options as to how CCMs would use their limits.

29. *{The Commission agreed at WCPFC15 that paragraph 29 in CMM 2017-01 applied only in 2018}*

30. Where the catch and effort limits in paragraphs 25 and 26 have been exceeded, any overage of the annual limits by a CCM or the collective annual limits of a group of CCMs shall be deducted from the limits for the following year for that CCM or group of CCMs.

³ Throughout this measure, in the case of small purse seine fleets, of five vessels or less, the baseline level of effort used to determine a limit shall be the maximum effort in any period and not the average.

Catch retention: Purse Seine Fishery

31. To create an incentive to reduce the non-intentional capture of juvenile fish, to discourage waste and to encourage an efficient utilization of fishery resources, CCMs shall require their purse seine vessels fishing in EEZs and on the high seas within the area bounded by 20°N and 20°S to retain on board and then land or transship at port all bigeye, skipjack, and yellowfin tuna. (Paragraphs 8 to 12 of CMM 2009-02 set out the Commission's rules for catch retention in the high seas.) The only exceptions to this paragraph shall be:

- a) when, in the final set of a trip, there is insufficient well space to accommodate all fish caught in that set, noting that excess fish taken in the last set may be transferred to and retained on board another purse seine vessel provided this is not prohibited under applicable national law; or
- b) when the fish are unfit for human consumption for reasons other than size; or
- c) when serious malfunction of equipment occurs.

32. Nothing in paragraphs 16-18 and 31 shall affect the sovereign rights of coastal States to determine how these management measures will be applied in their waters, or to apply additional or more stringent measures.

Monitoring and Control: Purse Seine Fishery

33. Notwithstanding the VMS SSP, a purse seine vessel shall not operate under manual reporting during the FADs closure periods, but the vessel will not be directed to return to port until the Secretariat has exhausted all reasonable steps to re-establish normal automatic reception of VMS positions in accordance with the VMS SSPs. The flag State shall be notified when VMS data is not received by the Secretariat at the interval specified in CMM 2014-02 or its replacement, and paragraph 37.

34. CCMs shall ensure that purse seine vessels entitled to fly their flags and fishing within the area bounded by 20°N and 20°S exclusively on the high seas, on the high seas and in waters under the jurisdiction of one or more coastal States, or vessels fishing in waters under the jurisdiction of two or more coastal States, shall carry an observer from the Commission's Regional Observer Program (ROP) (CMM 2018-05).

35. Each CCM shall ensure that all purse seine vessels fishing solely within its national jurisdiction within the area bounded by 20°N and 20°S carry an observer. These CCMs are encouraged to provide the data gathered by the observers for use in the various analyses conducted by the Commission, including stock assessments, in such a manner that protects the ownership and confidentiality of the data.

36. ROP reports for trips taken during FADs closure period shall be given priority for data input and analysis by the Secretariat and the Commission's Science Provider.

37. VMS polling frequency shall be increased to every 30 minutes during the FAD closure period. The increased costs associated with the implementation of this paragraph will be borne by the Commission.

Research on Bigeye and Yellowfin

38. CCMs and the Commission are encouraged to conduct and promote research to identify ways for purse seine vessels to minimize the mortality of juvenile bigeye tuna and yellowfin tuna, particularly in accordance with any research plans adopted by the Commission.

LOONGLINE FISHERY

39. As an interim measure, CCMs listed in Attachment 1, Table 3 shall restrict the level of bigeye catch to the levels specified in Table 3. Where the limits in Table 3 have been exceeded, any overage of the catch limit by a CCM listed in Table 3 shall be deducted from the catch limit for the following year for that CCM.

40. The Commission shall review the bigeye catch limits specified in Table 3 in 2019 based on any revised stock assessments and the recommendations of the Scientific Committee. The Commission may also take into account in setting any bigeye catch limits any plan submitted to the Secretariat by a CCM listed in Attachment 1, Table 3 to increase the level of monitoring and control of its longline vessels fishing in the Convention Area.

41. CCMs listed in Attachment 1, Table 3 shall report monthly the amount of bigeye catch by their flagged vessels to the Commission Secretariat by the end of the following month. The Secretariat shall notify all CCMs when 90% of the catch limits for a CCM is exceeded.

42. The limits set out in Attachment 1, Table 3 do not confer the allocation of rights to any CCM and are without prejudice to future decisions of the Commission.

43. Subject to paragraph 5, each Member that caught less than 2,000 tonnes in 2004 shall ensure that its bigeye catch does not exceed 2,000 tonnes annually.

44. By 2020 the Commission shall agree on hard limits for bigeye and a framework to allocate those limits amongst all Members and Participating Territories that adequately take into account Articles 8, 10 (3) and 30 of the Convention.

CAPACITY MANAGEMENT FOR PURSE SEINE AND LOONGLINE VESSELS

Purse Seine Vessel Limits

45. CCMs, other than Small Island Developing States and Indonesia⁴, shall keep the number of purse seine vessels flying their flag larger than 24m with freezing capacity operating between 20°N and 20°S (hereinafter "LSPSVs") to the applicable level under CMM 2013-01.

⁴ This paragraph shall not create a precedent with respect to application of exemptions to non-SIDS CCMs.

46. The concerned CCMs shall ensure that any new LSPSV constructed or purchased to replace a previous vessel or vessels, shall have a carrying capacity or well volume no larger than the vessel(s) being replaced, or shall not increase the catch or effort in the Convention Area from the level of the vessels being replaced. In such case, the authorization to fish in the Convention Area of the replaced vessel shall be immediately revoked by the flag CCM. Notwithstanding the first sentence in this paragraph, for those vessels for which building approval has already been granted and notified to the Commission before 1 March 2014, the construction of those vessels will be in accordance with existing regulations of the concerned CCMs.

Limits on Longline Vessels with Freezing Capacity

47. CCMs, other than Small Island Developing States and Indonesia⁵, shall not increase the number of their longline vessels with freezing capacity targeting bigeye tuna above the applicable level under CMM 2013-01.⁶

Limits on ice-chilled longline vessels landing fresh fish

48. CCMs, other than Small Island Developing States and Indonesia⁷, shall not increase the number of their ice-chilled longline vessels targeting bigeye tuna and landing exclusively fresh fish above the applicable level under CMM 2013-01, or above the number of licenses under established limited entry programmes applying during the operation of CMM 2013-01.⁸

49. Nothing in this measure shall restrict the ability of SIDS or Participating Territories to construct or purchase vessels from other CCMs for their domestic fleets.

OTHER COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

50. To assist the Commission in the further development of provisions to manage the catch of bigeye, yellowfin, and skipjack tunas, the Scientific and Technical and Compliance Committees during their meeting in 2019 will provide advice to the Commission on which fisheries should be included in this effort and what information is needed to develop appropriate management measures for those fisheries.

51. CCMs shall take necessary measures to ensure that the total catch of their respective other commercial tuna fisheries for bigeye, yellowfin or skipjack tuna, but excluding those fisheries taking less than 2,000 tonnes of bigeye, yellowfin and skipjack, shall not exceed either the average level for the period 2001-2004 or the level of 2004.

⁵ This paragraph shall not create a precedent with respect to application of exemptions to non-SIDS CCMs.

⁶ The provisions of this paragraph do not apply to those CCMs who apply domestic quotas, including individual transferable quotas, within a legislated/regulated management framework.

⁷ This paragraph shall not create a precedent with respect to application of exemptions to non-SIDS CCMs.

⁸ The provisions of this paragraph do not apply to those CCMs who apply domestic quotas, including individual transferable quotas, within a legislated/regulated management framework.

DATA PROVISION REQUIREMENTS

52. Operational level catch and effort data in accordance with the *Standards for the Provision of Operational Level Catch and Effort Data* attached to the Rules for *Scientific Data to be Provided to the Commission* relating to all fishing in EEZs and high seas south of 20N subject to this CMM except for artisanal small-scale vessels shall be provided to the Commission not only for the purpose of stocks management but also for the purpose of cooperation to SIDS under Article 30 of the Convention.^{9 10}

53. The Commission shall ensure the confidentiality of those data provided as non-public domain data.

54. CCMs whose vessel fish in EEZs and high seas north of 20N subject to this CMM shall ensure that aggregated data by 1 x 1 in that area be provided to the Commission, and shall also, upon request, cooperate in providing operational level data in case of Commission's stock assessment of tropical tuna stocks under a data handling agreement to be separately made between each CCM and the Scientific Provider. Those CCMs shall report such agreement to the Commission.

REVIEW AND FINAL PROVISIONS

55. The Commission shall review this CMM annually to ensure that the various provisions are having the intended effect.

56. *{The Commission agreed at WCPFC15 that paragraph 56 in CMM 2017-01 applied only in 2018}*

57. This measure replaces CMM 2017-01. This measure shall come into effect on 13 February 2019 and remain in effect until 10 February 2021 unless earlier replaced or amended by the Commission.

⁹ CCMs which had domestic legal constraints under CMM 2014-01 shall provide operational level data as of the date on which those domestic legal constraints were lifted.

¹⁰ This paragraph shall not apply to Indonesia, until it changes its national laws so that it can provide such data. This exception shall expire when such changes take effect but in any event no later than 31 December 2025. Indonesia will, upon request, make best effort to cooperate in providing operational level data in case of Commission's stock assessment of those stocks under a data handling agreement to be separately made with the Scientific Provider.

Attachment 1

Table 1: EEZ purse seine effort limits [paragraph 25]

Coastal CCMs' EEZ/Group	Effort in Vessel days/Catch limit	Comment
PNA	44,033 days	This limit will be managed cooperatively through the PNA Vessel Day Scheme.
Tokelau	1000 days	
Cook Islands	1,250 days	These CCMs are developing joint arrangements which may incorporate measures such as pooling and transferability of limits between EEZs.
Fiji	300 days	
Niue	200 days	
Samoa	150 days	
Tonga	250 days	
Vanuatu	200 days	
Australia	30,000 mt SKJ 600 mt BET 600 mt YFT	
French Polynesia	0	
Indonesia	*	
Japan	1500 days	
Korea	*	
New Zealand	40,000 mt SKJ	
New Caledonia	20,000 mt SKJ	
Philippines	*	
Chinese Taipei	*	
United States **	558 days	
Wallis and Futuna	*	

* Limits not notified to the Commission

** The United States notified the Secretariat of the combined US EEZ and high seas effort limits on 1 July 2016 (1828 fishing days on the high seas and in the U.S. EEZ (combined)). The US EEZ limit is understood to be this notified limit minus the high seas effort limit for the United States set out in Table 2 of Attachment 1

Table 2. High seas purse seine effort control [paragraphs 26-28]

CCM	EFFORT LIMIT (DAYS)
CHINA	26
ECUADOR	**
EL SALVADOR	**
EUROPEAN UNION	403
INDONESIA	(0)
JAPAN	121
NEW ZEALAND	160
PHILIPPINES	#
REPUBLIC OF KOREA	207
CHINESE TAIPEI	95
USA	1270

** subject to CNM on participatory rights
 # The measures that the Philippines will take are in Attachment 2.

Table 3. Bigeye Longline Catch Limits [paragraphs 39-42]

Bigeye catch limits by flag	
CCMs	Catch Limits
CHINA	8,224
INDONESIA	5,889*
JAPAN	18,265
KOREA	13,942
CHINESE TAIPEI	10,481
USA	3,554

*Provisional and maybe subject to revision following data analysis and verification

Japan will make an annual one-off transfer of 500 metric tonnes of its bigeye tuna catch limit to China.

Attachment 2: Measure for Philippines

1. This Attachment shall apply to Philippine traditional fresh/ice chilled fishing vessels operating as a group.

AREA OF APPLICATION

2. This measure shall apply only to High Seas Pocket no. 1 (HSP-1), which is the area of high seas bounded by the Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs) of the Federated States of Micronesia to the north and east, Republic of Palau to the west, Indonesia and Papua New Guinea to the south. For the purposes of this measure, the exact coordinates for the area shall be those used by the WCPFC vessel monitoring system (VMS). A map showing the HSP-1 Special Management Area is attached.

REPORTING

3. Philippines shall require its concerned vessels to submit reports to the Commission at least 24 hours prior to entry and no more than 6 hours prior to exiting the HSP-1 SMA. This information may, in turn, be transmitted to the adjacent coastal States/Territories.

The report shall be in the following format:

VID/Entry or Exit: Date/Time; Lat/Long

4. Philippines shall ensure that its flagged vessels operating in the HSP-1 SMA report sightings of any fishing vessel to the Commission Secretariat. Such information shall include: vessel type, date, time, position, markings, heading and speed.

OBSERVER

5. The fishing vessels covered by this measure shall employ a WCPFC Regional Observer on board during the whole duration while they operate in HSP-1 SMA in accordance with the provisions of CMM 2018-05.

6. Regional Observers from other CCMs shall be given preference/priority. For this purpose, the Philippines and the Commission Secretariat shall inform the CCMs and the Adjacent Coastal State of the deployment needs and requirements at 60 days prior expected departure. The Secretariat and the CCM that has available qualified regional observer shall inform the Philippines of the readiness and availability of the Regional Observer at least 30 days prior to the deployment date. If none is available, the Philippines is authorized to deploy regional observers from the Philippines.

VESSEL LIST

7. The Commission shall maintain an updated list of all fishing vessels operating in HSP1 SMA based on the foregoing vessel's entry and exit reports submitted to the Commission. The list will be made available to Commission Members through the WCPFC website.

MONITORING OF PORT LANDINGS

8. The Philippines shall ensure that all port landings of its vessels covered by this decision are monitored and accounted for to make certain that reliable catch data by species are collected for processing and analysis.

COMPLIANCE

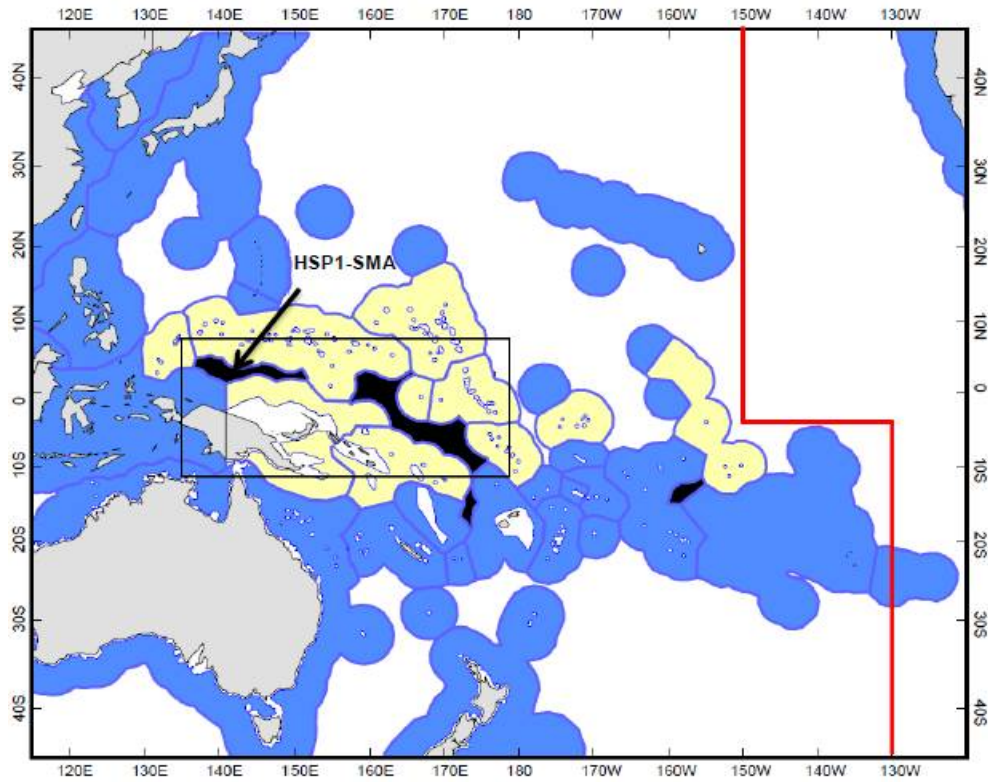
9. All vessels conducting their fishing activities pursuant to this Attachment to CMM 2018-01 shall comply with all other relevant CMMs. Vessels found to be non-compliant with this decision shall be dealt with in accordance with CMM 2010-06, and any other applicable measure adopted by the Commission.

EFFORT LIMIT

10. The total effort of these vessels shall not exceed 4,659¹⁴ days. The Philippines shall limit its fleet to 36 fishing vessels (described by the Philippines as catcher fishing vessels) in the HSP-1 SMA.

¹⁴ Reference Table 2(b), WCPFC9-2012-IP09_rev3

- Map Showing HSP-1 SMA Where the Arrangements in Attachment 2 Apply



This map displays indicative maritime boundaries only. It is presented without prejudice to any past, current or future claims by any State. It is not intended for use to support any past, current or future claims by any State or territory in the western and central Pacific or east Asian region. Individual States are responsible for maintaining the coordinates for their maritime claims. It is the responsibility of flag States to ensure their vessels are informed of the coordinates of maritime limits within the Convention Area. Coastal States are invited to register the coordinates for their negotiated and agreed maritime areas with the Commission Secretariat.



**COMMISSION
FIFTEENTH REGULAR SESSION**

Honolulu, Hawaii, USA

10 – 14 December 2018

CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURE FOR PACIFIC BLUEFIN TUNA

Conservation and Management Measure 2018-02*

The Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC):

Recognizing that WCPFC6 adopted Conservation and Management Measure for Pacific bluefin tuna (CMM 2009-07) and the measure was revised seven times since then (CMM 2010-04, CMM 2012-06, CMM 2013-09, CMM 2014-04, CMM 2015-04, CMM 2016-04 and CMM 2017-08) based on the conservation advice from the International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-like Species in the North Pacific Ocean (ISC) on this stock;

Noting with concern the latest stock assessment provided by ISC Plenary Meeting in July 2016, indicating the following:

- (1) SSB fluctuated throughout the assessment period (1952–2014), (2) SSB steadily declined from 1996 to 2010, and (3) the decline appears to have ceased since 2010, although the stock remains near the historic low (2.6% of unfished SSB);
- The 2014 estimated recruitment was relatively low, and the average recruitment for the last five years may have been below the historical average;
- The fishery exploitation rate in 2011-2013 exceeded all biological reference points evaluated by the ISC except FMED and FLOSS.
- Since the early 1990s, the WCPO purse seine fisheries, in particular those targeting small fish (age 0-1) have had an increasing impact on the spawning stock biomass, and in 2014 had a greater impact than any other fishery group.
- The projection results indicate that: (1) the probability of SSB recovering to the initial rebuilding target (SSBMED1952-2014) by 2024 is 69% or above the level prescribed in the WCPFC CMM 2015-04 if low recruitment scenario is assumed and WCPFC CMM 2015-04 and IATTC Resolution C-14-06 continue in force and are fully implemented; and (2) a 10% reduction in the catch limit for fish smaller than 30 kg would have a larger effect on recovery than a 10% reduction in the catch limit for fish larger than 30 kg; and
- Catching a high number of smaller juvenile fish can have a greater impact on future spawning stock biomass than catching the same weight of larger fish;

Further recalling that paragraph (4), Article 22 of the WCPFC Convention, which requires cooperation between the Commission and the IATTC to reach agreement to harmonize CMMs for fish stocks such as Pacific bluefin tuna that occur in the convention areas of both organizations;

** Version issued 2 May 2019*

Adopts, in accordance with Article 10 of the WCPFC Convention that:

General Provision

- 1 This conservation and management measure has been prepared to implement the Harvest Strategy for Pacific Bluefin Tuna Fisheries, and the Northern Committee shall periodically review and recommend revisions to this measure as needed to implement the Harvest Strategy.

Management measures

- 2 CCMs shall take measures necessary to ensure that:
 - (1) Total fishing effort by their vessel fishing for Pacific bluefin tuna in the area north of the 20° N shall stay below the 2002–2004 annual average levels.
 - (2) All catches of Pacific bluefin tuna less than 30 kg shall be reduced to 50% of the 2002–2004 annual average levels. Any overage or underage of the catch limit shall be deducted from or may be added to the catch limit for the following year. The maximum underage that a CCM may carry over in any given year shall not exceed 5% of its annual initial catch limit.
- 3 CCMs shall take measures necessary to ensure that all catches of Pacific Bluefin tuna 30kg or larger shall not be increased from the 2002-2004 annual average levels¹. Any overage or underage of the catch limit shall be deducted from or may be added to the catch limit for the following year. The maximum underage that a CCM may carry over in any given year shall not exceed 5% of its annual initial catch limit. However, in 2018, 2019, and 2020 CCMs may use part of the catch limit for Pacific bluefin tuna smaller than 30 kg stipulated in paragraph 2 (2) above to catch Pacific bluefin tuna 30 kg or larger in the same year. In this case, the amount of catch 30 kg or larger shall be counted against the catch limit for Pacific bluefin tuna smaller than 30 kg. CCMs shall not use the catch limit for Pacific bluefin tuna 30 kg or larger to catch Pacific bluefin tuna smaller than 30 kg. The ISC is requested to review, in its work referred to in Section 5 of Harvest Strategy, the implications of this special provision in terms of PBF mortality and stock rebuilding probabilities in 2020. Based on that review, in 2020 the Northern Committee will determine whether it should be continued past 2020, and if so, recommend changes to the CMM as appropriate.
- 4 CCMs shall report their 2002–2004 baseline fishing effort and <30 kg and >=30 kg catch levels for 2013 and 2014, by fishery, as referred to in paragraphs 2 and 3, to the Executive Director by 31 July 2015. CCMs shall also report to the Executive Director by 31 July each year their fishing effort and <30 kg and >=30 kg catch levels, by fishery, for the previous 3 year, accounting for all catches, including discards. The Executive Director will compile this information each year into an appropriate format for the use of the Northern Committee

¹ CCMs with a base line catch of 10 t or less may increase its catch as long as it does not exceed 10 t.

- 5 CCMs shall intensify cooperation for effective implementation of this CMM, including juvenile catch reduction.
- 6 CCMs, in particular those catching juvenile Pacific bluefin tuna, shall take measures to monitor and obtain prompt results of recruitment of juveniles each year.
- 7 Consistent with their rights and obligations under international law, and in accordance with domestic laws and regulations, CCMs shall, to the extent possible, take measures necessary to prevent commercial transaction of Pacific bluefin tuna and its products that undermine the effectiveness of this CMM, especially measures prescribed in the paragraph 2 and 3 above. CCMs shall cooperate for this purpose.
- 8 CCMs shall cooperate to establish a catch documentation scheme (CDS) to be applied to Pacific bluefin tuna in accordance with the Attachment of this CMM.
- 9 CCMs shall also take measures necessary to strengthen monitoring and data collecting system for Pacific bluefin tuna fisheries and farming in order to improve the data quality and timeliness of all the data reporting;
- 10 CCMs shall report to Executive Director by 31 July annually measures they used to implement paragraphs 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 9 and 12 of this CMM. CCMs shall also monitor the international trade of the products derived from Pacific bluefin tuna and report the results to Executive Director by 31 July annually. The Northern Committee shall annually review those reports CCMs submit pursuant to this paragraph and if necessary, advise a CCM to take an action for enhancing its compliance with this CMM.
- 11 The WCPFC Executive Director shall communicate this Conservation Management Measure to the IATTC Secretariat and its contracting parties whose fishing vessels engage in fishing for Pacific bluefin tuna in EPO and request them to take equivalent measures in conformity with this CMM.
- 12 To enhance effectiveness of this measure, CCMs are encouraged to communicate with and, if appropriate, work with the concerned IATTC contracting parties bilaterally.
- 13 The provisions of paragraphs 2 and 3 shall not prejudice the legitimate rights and obligations under international law of those small island developing State Members and participating territories in the Convention Area whose current fishing activity for Pacific bluefin tuna is limited, but that have a real interest in fishing for the species, that may wish to develop their own fisheries for Pacific bluefin tuna in the future.
- 14 The provisions of paragraph 13 shall not provide a basis for an increase in fishing effort by fishing vessels owned or operated by interests outside such developing coastal State, particularly Small Island Developing State Members or participating territories, unless such fishing is conducted in support of efforts by such Members and territories to develop their own domestic fisheries.

Development of a Catch Document Scheme for Pacific Bluefin Tuna

Background

At the 1st joint working group meeting between NC and IATTC, held in Fukuoka, Japan from August 29 to September 1, 2016, participants supported to advance the work on the Catch Documentation Scheme (CDS) in the next joint working group meeting, in line with the development of overarching CDS framework by WCPFC and taking into account of the existing CDS by other RFMOs.

1. Objective of the Catch Document Scheme

The objective of CDS is to combat IUU fishing for Pacific Bluefin Tuna (PBF) by providing a means of preventing PBF and its products identified as caught by or originating from IUU fishing activities from moving through the commodity chain and ultimately entering markets.

2. Use of electronic scheme

Whether CDS will be a paper based scheme, an electronic scheme or a gradual transition from a paper based one to an electronic one should be first decided since the requirement of each scheme would be quite different.

3. Basic elements to be included in the draft conservation and management measure (CMM)

It is considered that at least the following elements should be considered in drafting CMM.

- (1) Objective
- (2) General provision
- (3) Definition of terms
- (4) Validation authorities and validating process of catch documents and re-export certificates
- (5) Verification authorities and verifying process for import and re-import
- (6) How to handle PBF caught by artisanal fisheries
- (7) How to handle PBF caught by recreational or sport fisheries
- (8) Use of tagging as a condition for exemption of validation
- (9) Communication between exporting members and importing members
- (10) Communication between members and the Secretariat
- (11) Role of the Secretariat
- (12) Relationship with non-members
- (13) Relationship with other CDSs and similar programs
- (14) Consideration to developing members

- (15) Schedule for introduction
- (16) Attachment
 - (i) Catch document forms
 - (ii) Re-export certificate forms
 - (iii) Instruction sheets for how to fill out forms
 - (iv) List of data to be extracted and compiled by the Secretariat

4. Work plan

The following schedule may need to be modified, depending on the progress on the WCPFC CDS for tropical tunas.

- 2017 The joint working group will submit this concept paper to the NC and IATTC for endorsement. NC will send the WCPFC annual meeting the recommendation to endorse the paper.
- 2018 The joint working group will hold a technical meeting, preferably around its meeting, to materialize the concept paper into a draft CMM. The joint working group will report the progress to the WCPFC via NC and the IATTC, respectively.
- 2019 The joint working group will hold a second technical meeting to improve the draft CMM. The joint working group will report the progress to the WCPFC via NC and the IATTC, respectively.
- 2020 The joint working group will hold a third technical meeting to finalize the draft CMM. Once it is finalized, the joint working group will submit it to the NC and the IATTC for adoption. The NC will send the WCPFC the recommendation to adopt it.



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FIFTEENTH REGULAR SESSION
Honolulu, Hawaii, USA
10 – 14 December, 2018

Work Plan for the Adoption of Harvest Strategies under CMM 2014-06¹

2018 update

Some key changes and things to note for this update of the workplan include:

1. Completed items are in grey. Bold items are the six elements that are referred to in CMM 2014-06 (Objectives, Reference Points, Acceptable Levels of Risk, Monitoring, Harvest Control Rules and MSE). Items in brackets are related to harvest strategy development, are part of the plan, but are not one of these six elements.
2. Deferred 2019 commencement of MSE work on bigeye and yellowfin tuna noting capacity and resource limits of the science service provider;
3. Addition of three items for 2019:
 - a. South Pacific albacore—Identifying a range of alternative catch pathways to the interim TRP and timeframes that achieve this;
 - b. Skipjack—SC to advise on required analyses to support TRP review;
 - c. Science Service Provider to review potential options to capture multi species issues under the HS process;
4. Regarding the need for clarity on whether decisions on harvest strategy elements are “interim”. The proposed approach is for the workplan to not state whether a future decision will be interim or otherwise but to simply schedule the decision and then let the Commission determine its interim nature;
5. A more substantial review of the Harvest Strategy Workplan, with inclusion of more detail, is anticipated during SC15 and WCPFC16.

¹ As refined and adopted at the Fifteenth Regular Session of the Commission, Honolulu, United States of America 10-14 December 2018.

	South Pacific Albacore	Skipjack	Bigeye	Yellowfin
2015	SC provided advice on implications of a range of Target Reference Points for South Pacific albacore.	Commission agreed an interim Target Reference Point (b).	Commission tasked SC to determine a biologically reasonable timeframe for rebuilding bigeye tuna to [or above] its limit reference point.	
Commission agreed to workplan for the adoption of harvest strategies under CMM 2014-06 [WCPFC12 Summary Report, Attachment Y]				
	South Pacific Albacore	Skipjack	Bigeye	Yellowfin
2016	<p>Commission considered management objectives for the fishery or stock (a).</p> <p>Performance indicators and Monitoring strategy (d).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SC provided advice on a monitoring strategy to assess performance against reference points. SC provided advice on a range of performance indicators to evaluate performance of harvest control rules. Commission tasked SPC/SC to develop interim performance indicators to evaluate harvest control rules. [Commission agree to a monitoring strategy to assess performance against reference points.] 	<p>Commission considered management objectives for the fishery or stock (a).</p> <p>Performance indicators and Monitoring strategy (d).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SC provided advice on a monitoring strategy to assess performance against reference points. SC provide advice on a range of performance indicators to evaluate performance of harvest control rules. Commission agreed interim performance indicators to evaluate harvest control rules. [see WCPFC13 Summary Report Attachment M] [Commission agree to a monitoring strategy to assess performance against reference points.] 	<p>Commission considered management objectives for the fishery or stock (a).</p> <p>Commission agreed timeframes to rebuild stock to limit reference point. [see page 8 of HSW]</p>	<p>Commission considered management objectives for the fishery or stock (a).</p>
Commission agreed on interim maximum acceptable risk level for breaching the LRP (c). [see page 8 of HSW]				

	Commission agreed to a refined workplan for the adoption of harvest strategies under CMM 2014-06 [WCPFC13 Summary Report Attachment N]
	<p>Progress Summary: Recognised the need for some harvest strategy elements to be adopted as 'interim' noting that they be reconsidered as the harvest strategy process develops. Considered management objectives for the fisheries or stocks and made progress on identifying performance measures for tropical purse seine fisheries. For South Pacific albacore acknowledged the benefit of SPC adapting the same list of indicators to further similar work for south Pacific albacore. Commenced some early discussions on the relationship between harvest strategies for the different species and multispecies issues.</p>

	South Pacific Albacore	Skipjack	Bigeye	Yellowfin
2017	<p>Performance indicators and Monitoring strategy (d).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SC provided advice on a range of performance indicators for the Southern Longline Fishery to evaluate performance of harvest control rules. • Commission noted performance indicators for the Southern Longline Fishery to evaluate harvest control rules. 	<p>Develop harvest control rules (e) and Management strategy evaluation (f).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SC provide advice on candidate harvest control rules based on agreed reference points (ongoing). • Commission consider advice on progress towards harvest control rules (ongoing). 	<p>Performance indicators and Monitoring strategy (d).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SC provide advice on a range of performance indicators for the Tropical Longline Fishery to evaluate performance of harvest control rules. • Commission noted performance indicators for the Tropical Longline Fishery to evaluate harvest control rules <p>[SC report on BET status following updated assessment.]</p> <p>[SC and SPC provide advice to the Commission on the likely outcomes of revised tropical tuna measure.]</p>	<p>Performance indicators and Monitoring strategy (d).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SC provide advice on a range of performance indicators for the Tropical Longline Fishery to evaluate performance of harvest control rules. • Commission noted performance indicators for the Tropical Longline Fishery to evaluate harvest control rules
Consider management objectives for stocks and fisheries (a).				
<p>Progress Summary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noted candidate performance indicators for the Southern Longline Fishery and the Tropical Longline fishery to evaluate harvest control rules. • Agreed on actions to prioritise the development and adoption of a Target Reference Point for south Pacific albacore at WCPFC15. • Recognized the importance of developing harvest strategies for key stocks in the WCPO. The Commission recognized that this work requires the consideration of fisheries managers and scientists at different stages. The Commission notes that the time required for harvest strategy discussions is substantial but will also vary from year to year and the Commission recognized the need for this to be accommodated. • Agreed to reprioritise as needed the annual agenda of the Commission and Scientific Committee to allow sufficient additional time for consideration of harvest strategy issues. In addition WCPFC recognised that there may also be a need for a dedicated science/management dialogue. 				

	South Pacific Albacore	Skipjack	Bigeye	Yellowfin
2018	<p>Agree Target Reference Point (b).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commission agree a TRP for south pacific albacore. <p>Develop harvest control rules (e) and Management strategy evaluation (f)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SC provide advice on performance of candidate harvest control rules. (ongoing). TCC consider the implications of candidate harvest control rules. (ongoing). Commission consider advice on progress towards harvest control rules. (ongoing). <p>[SC updated advice on SP albacore status.]</p>	<p>Develop harvest control rules (e) and Management strategy evaluation (f)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SC provide advice on performance of candidate harvest control rules. (ongoing). TCC consider the implications of candidate harvest control rules. (ongoing). Commission consider advice on progress towards harvest control rules. (ongoing). 	<p>[SC updated advice on BET status.]</p> <p>[SC and SPC provide advice to the Commission on the likely outcomes of revised tropical tuna measure.]</p> <p>[SC and Commission discussion of management objectives for fisheries and/or stocks, and subsequent development of candidate TRPs for BET and YFT.]</p>	<p>[SC and Commission discussion of management objectives for fisheries and/or stocks, and subsequent development of candidate TRPs for BET and YFT.]</p>
	Consider management objectives for stocks and fisheries (a).			
	<p>Progress Summary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An interim target reference point (TRP) for south Pacific albacore (0.56 SBF=0) was agreed. The Commission agreed to hold a 6-day annual meeting in 2019 with additional time devoted for the Commission to discuss harvest strategies. 			

	South Pacific Albacore	Skipjack	Bigeye	Yellowfin
2019	<p>Develop harvest control rules (e) and Management strategy evaluation (f)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SC provide advice on performance of candidate harvest control rules. (ongoing). • TCC consider the implications of candidate harvest control rules. (ongoing). • Commission consider advice on progress towards harvest control rules. (ongoing). <p>[Science Service Provider tasked with identifying a range of alternative catch pathways to the interim TRP and timeframes that achieve this]</p>	<p>Develop harvest control rules (e) and Management strategy evaluation (f)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SC provide advice on performance of candidate harvest control rules. (ongoing). • TCC consider the implications of candidate harvest control rules. (ongoing). • Commission consider advice on progress towards harvest control rules. (ongoing). <p>["TRP shall be reviewed by the Commission no later than 2019" – CMM 2015-06]</p> <p>[Updated stock assessment considered by SC15]</p> <p>[SC to advise on required analyses to support TRP review]</p>	<p>Agree Target Reference Point (b).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SC provide advice on potential Target Reference Points for bigeye. • Commission agree a TRP for bigeye. 	<p>Agree Target Reference Point (b).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SC provide advice on potential Target Reference Points for yellowfin. • Commission agree a TRP for yellowfin.
	<p>Consider management objectives for stocks and fisheries (a). NB: SC may need to reassess acceptable levels of risk for 3 key stocks. SKJ won't need to be reassessed given process with HCR work.</p> <p>[Science Service Provider to review potential options to capture multi species issues under the HS process.]</p>			
	<p>Progress Summary:</p>			

	South Pacific Albacore	Skipjack	Bigeye	Yellowfin
2020	<p>Develop harvest control rules (e) and Management strategy evaluation (f)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SC provide advice on performance of candidate harvest control rules. (ongoing). • TCC consider the implications of candidate harvest control rules. (ongoing). • Commission consider advice on progress towards harvest control rules. (ongoing). 	<p>Develop harvest control rules (e) and Management strategy evaluation (f)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SC provide advice on performance of candidate harvest control rules. • TCC consider the implications of candidate harvest control rules. • Commission consider advice on progress towards harvest control rules. <p>Adopt a Harvest Control Rule</p>	<p>Develop harvest control rules (e) and Management strategy evaluation (f)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SC provide advice on performance of candidate harvest control rules. (ongoing). • TCC consider the implications of candidate harvest control rules. (ongoing). • Commission consider advice on progress towards harvest control rules. (ongoing). 	<p>Develop harvest control rules (e) and Management strategy evaluation (f)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SC provide advice on performance of candidate harvest control rules. (ongoing). • TCC consider the implications of candidate harvest control rules. (ongoing). • Commission consider advice on progress towards harvest control rules. (ongoing).
	Consider management objectives for stocks and fisheries (a).			
	Progress Summary:			

	South Pacific Albacore	Skipjack	Bigeye	Yellowfin
2021	<p>Develop harvest control rules (e) and Management strategy evaluation (f)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SC provide advice on performance of candidate harvest control rules. • TCC consider the implications of candidate harvest control rules. • Commission consider advice on progress towards harvest control rules. <p><u>Adopt a Harvest Control Rule.</u></p>	<p>Harvest Strategy for Skipjack in place</p>	<p>Develop harvest control rules (e) and Management strategy evaluation (f)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SC provide advice on performance of candidate harvest control rules. • TCC consider the implications of candidate harvest control rules. • Commission consider advice on progress towards harvest control rules. <p>Adopt a Harvest Control Rule</p>	<p>Develop harvest control rules (e) and Management strategy evaluation (f)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SC provide advice on performance of candidate harvest control rules. • TCC consider the implications of candidate harvest control rules. • Commission consider advice on progress towards harvest control rules. <p>Adopt a Harvest Control Rule</p>
	Consider management objectives for stocks and fisheries (a).			
	Progress Summary:			



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**BEST HANDLING PRACTICES FOR THE SAFE RELEASE OF SHARKS (OTHER THAN
WHALE SHARKS AND MANTAS/MOBULIDS)¹**

The following are recommended non-binding guidelines of best handling practices of sharks for both purse seine and longline fisheries:

Safety First: These guidelines should be considered in light of safety and practicability for crew. Crew safety should always come first. Crew should wear suitable gloves and avoid working around the jaws of sharks.

For all gear types, keep animals in the water if possible. If necessary to land on deck, minimize time and release shark to the water as soon as possible.

Purse Seine

Do's (make sure that "do" graphics are clearly labelled as examples only):

If in purse seine net:

- Release sharks while they are still free-swimming whenever possible (e.g. back down procedure, submerging corks, cutting net)
- For sharks that cannot be released from the purse seine net, consider removing them using a hook and line.

If in brail or on deck:

- For sharks that are too large to be lifted safely by hand out of the brailer, it is preferable they are released using a purpose-built large-mesh cargo net or canvas sling or similar device². If the vessel layout allows, these sharks could also be released by emptying the brail directly on a ramp held up at an angle that connects to an opening on the top deck railing, without need to be lifted or handled by the crew.
- Generally, small sharks are fragile and need to be handled very carefully. If this can be done safely, it is best to handle and release them with two people, or one person using both hands.
- When entangled in netting, if safe to do so carefully cut the net away from the animal and release to the sea as quickly as possible with no netting attached.

¹ These guidelines are appropriate for live individuals of shark species to be released under no-retention policies as well as any other live sharks to be released voluntarily.

² As recommended in document SC8-EB-IP-12 (Poisson et al. 2012)

Don'ts (graphics are useful here):

- Do not wait until hauling is finished to release sharks. Return them to the sea as soon as possible.
- Do not cut or punch holes through the shark's body.
- Do not gaff or kick a shark and do not insert hands into the gill slits.

Longline

Do's (make sure that "do" graphics are clearly labelled as examples only):

- The preference is to release all sharks while they are still in the water, if possible. Use a dehooker to remove the hook or a long-handled line cutter to cut the gear as close to the hook as possible (ideally leaving less than 0.5 meters of line attached to the animal).
- If de-hooking in the water proves to be difficult, and the shark is small enough to be accommodated in a dip net, bring it on board and remove as much gear as possible by using a dehooker. If hooks are embedded, either cut the hook with bolt cutters or cut the line at the hook and gently return the animal to the sea.
- For all sharks that are brought on deck, minimize time before releasing to the water.

Don'ts (graphics are useful here):

- Do not strike a shark against any surface to remove the animal from the line.
- Do not attempt to dislodge a hook that is deeply ingested and not visible.
- Do not try to remove a hook by pulling sharply on the branchline.
- Do not cut the tail or any other body part.
- Do not gaff or kick a shark, and do not insert hands into the gill slits.

Additional recommendation:

Knowing that any fishing operation may catch sharks, several tools can be prepared in advance (e.g. canvas or net slings or stretchers for carrying or lifting, large mesh net or grid to cover hatches/hoppers in purse seine fisheries, long handled cutters and de-hookers in longline fisheries).



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**CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURE TO MITIGATE THE
IMPACT OF FISHING FOR HIGHLY MIGRATORY FISH STOCKS ON
SEABIRDS**

Conservation and Management Measure 2018-03

The Commission for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean

Concerned that some seabird species, notably albatrosses and petrels, are threatened with global extinction;

Noting advice from the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources that together with illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, the greatest threat to Southern Ocean seabirds is mortality in longline fisheries in waters adjacent to its Convention Area;

Noting scientific research into mitigation of seabird bycatch in surface longline fisheries has showed that the effectiveness of various measures varies greatly depending on the vessel type, season, and seabird species assemblage present;

Noting the advice of the Scientific Committee that combinations of mitigation measures are essential for effective reduction of seabird bycatch;

Recognising the sovereign rights of coastal States for the purpose of exploring and exploiting, conserving and managing highly migratory fish stocks within areas under national jurisdiction;

Recalling Article 5 of the Convention, which in giving effect to members duty to cooperate in accordance with the 1982 Convention and the UNFSA, requires members of the Commission under Article 5(e) to adopt measures to minimise, *inter alia*, catch of non-target species; and

Further recognising Article 30 of the Convention and the need to ensure that conservation and management measures do not result in transferring, directly or indirectly, a disproportionate burden of conservation action onto developing States Parties, and territories and possessions.

Resolves as follows:

1. Commission Members, Cooperating Non-members and participating Territories (CCMs) should, to the greatest extent practical, implement the International Plan of Action for Reducing Incidental Catches of Seabirds in Longline Fisheries (IPOA-Seabirds) if they have not already done so.
2. CCMs should report to the Commission on their implementation of the IPOA-Seabirds, including, as appropriate, the status of their National Plans of Action for Reducing Incidental Catches of Seabirds in Longline Fisheries.

Adopts, in accordance with Article 5(e) and 10 (1)(c) of the Convention on the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean the following measures to address seabird bycatch:

South of 30° South

1. CCMs shall require their longline vessels fishing south of 30°S, to use either
 - a) at least two of these three measures:
 - i). weighted branch lines;
 - ii). night setting;
 - iii). tori lines; or
 - b) hook-shielding devices.

Table 1 does not apply south of 30° South. See Annex 1 for specifications of these measures.

25° South -30° South

2. CCMs shall require their longline vessels fishing in the area 25°S-30°S to use one of the following mitigation measures:
 - i) weighted branch lines;
 - ii) tori lines; or
 - iii) hook-shielding devices.

Table 1 does not apply in the area 25°S-30°S. See Annex 1 for specifications of these measures.

3. The extension of the scope of application of seabird mitigation measures from 30°S to 25°S shall not come into effect until 1 January 2020.

4. The requirements of paragraph 2 shall not apply in the EEZs of French Polynesia, New Caledonia, Tonga, Cook Islands and Fiji due to the low risk to seabirds. Those SIDS and Territories that have vessels operating south of 25° South are encouraged to collect data on seabird interactions, increase observer coverage rate as appropriate, and implement seabird mitigation measures when they operate within their EEZs.

5. The provisions in this section shall be reviewed no later than 3 years from the implementation date by the SC, based on the best available scientific information. The review shall consider both

the efficacy of the mitigation measures being used and the risk to vulnerable seabirds in areas where mitigation measures are not required and make recommendations to the Commission if needed.

North of 23° North

6. CCMs shall require their large-scale longline vessels of 24 meters or more in overall length fishing north of 23°N, to use at least two of the mitigation measures in Table 1, including at least one from Column A. CCMs also shall require their small-scale longline vessels less than 24 meters in overall length fishing north of 23°N, to use at least one of the mitigation measures from Column A in Table 1. See Annex 1 for specifications of these measures.

Table 1: Mitigation measures

<i>Column A</i>	<i>Column B</i>
<i>Side setting with a bird curtain and weighted branch lines¹</i>	<i>Tori line²</i>
<i>Night setting with minimum deck lighting</i>	<i>Blue-dyed bait</i>
<i>Tori line</i>	<i>Deep setting line shooter</i>
<i>Weighted branch lines</i>	<i>Management of offal discharge</i>
<i>Hook-shielding devices³</i>	

Other Areas

7. In other areas (between 25°S and 23°N), where necessary, CCMs are encouraged to have their longline vessels employ one or more of the seabird mitigation measures listed in Table 1.

General Principles

8. For research and reporting purposes, each CCM with longline vessels that fish in the Convention Area south of 25°S or north of 23°N shall submit to the Commission in part 2 of its annual report information describing which of the mitigation measures they require their vessels to use, as well as the technical specifications for each of those mitigation measures. Each such CCM shall also include in its annual reports for subsequent years any changes it has made to its required mitigation measures or technical specifications for those measures.

9. CCMs are encouraged to undertake research to further develop and refine measures to mitigate seabird bycatch including mitigation measures for use during the setting and hauling process and should submit to the Secretariat for the use by the SC and the TCC any information derived from such efforts. Research should be undertaken in the fisheries and areas to which the measure will be used.

¹ If using side setting with a bird curtain and weighted branch lines from Column A, this will be counted as two mitigation measures.

² If a tori line is selected from both Column A and Column B, this equates to simultaneously using two (i.e. paired) tori lines.

³ Hook-shielding devices can be used as a stand-alone measure.

10. The SC and TCC will annually review any new information on new or existing mitigation measures or on seabird interactions from observer or other monitoring programmes. Where necessary, an updated suite of mitigation measures, specifications for mitigation measures, or recommendations for areas of application will then be provided to the Commission for its consideration and review as appropriate.

11. CCMs are encouraged to adopt measures aimed at ensuring that seabirds captured alive during longlining are released alive and in as good condition as possible and that wherever possible hooks are removed without jeopardizing the life of the seabird concerned. Research into the survival of released seabirds is encouraged.

12. The intersessional working group for the regional observer programme (IWG-ROP) will take into account the need to obtain detailed information on seabird interactions to allow analysis of the effects of fisheries on seabirds and evaluation of the effectiveness of bycatch mitigation measures.

13. CCMs shall annually provide to the Commission, in Part 1 of their annual reports, all available information on interactions with seabirds reported or collected by observers to enable the estimation of seabird mortality in all fisheries to which the Convention applies. (see Annex 2 for Part 1 reporting template guideline). These reports shall include information on:

- a) the proportion of observed effort with specific mitigation measures used; and
- b) observed and reported species specific seabird bycatch rates and numbers or statistically rigorous estimates of species-specific seabird interaction rates (for longline, interactions per 1,000 hooks) and total numbers.

14. This Conservation and Management measure replaces CMM 2017-06, which is hereby repealed.

Annex 1. Specifications

1. Tori lines (South of 25° South)

1a) For vessels ≥ 35 m total length

- i. Deploy at least 1 tori line. Where practical, vessels are encouraged to use a second tori line at times of high bird abundance or activity; both tori lines shall be deployed simultaneously, one on each side of the line being set. If two tori lines are used baited hooks shall be deployed within the area bounded by the two tori lines.
- ii. A tori line using long and short streamers shall be used. Streamers shall be: brightly coloured, a mix of long and short streamers.
 - a. Long streamers shall be placed at intervals of no more than 5 m, and long streamers must be attached to the line with swivels that prevent streamers from wrapping around the line. Long streamers of sufficient length to reach the sea surface in calm conditions must be used.
 - b. Short streamers (greater than 1m in length) shall be placed no more than 1m apart.
- iii. Vessels shall deploy the tori line to achieve a desired aerial extent greater than or equal to 100 m. To achieve this aerial extent the tori line shall have a minimum length of 200m, and shall be attached to a tori pole >7 m above the sea surface located as close to the stern as practical.
- iv. If vessels use only one tori line, the tori line shall be deployed windward of sinking baits.

1b) For vessels < 35 m total length

- i. A single tori line using either long and short streamers, or short streamers only shall be used.
- ii. Streamers shall be: brightly coloured long and/or short (but greater than 1m in length) streamers must be used and placed at intervals as follows:
 - a. Long streamers placed at intervals of no more than 5m for the first 75 m of tori line.
 - b. Short streamers placed at intervals of no more than 1m.
- iii. Long streamers should be attached to the line in a way that prevent streamers from wrapping around the line. All long streamers shall reach the sea-surface in calm conditions. Streamers may be modified over the first 15 m to avoid tangling.
- iv. Vessels shall deploy the tori line to achieve a minimum aerial extent of 75 m. To achieve this aerial extent the tori line shall be attached to a tori pole >6 m above the sea surface located as close to the stern as practical. Sufficient drag must be created to maximise aerial extent and maintain the line directly behind the vessel during crosswinds. To avoid tangling, this is best achieved using a long in-water section of rope or monofilament.
- v. If two tori lines are used, the two lines must be deployed on opposing sides of the main line.

2. Tori lines (North of 23° North)

2a) Long Streamer

- i. Minimum length: 100 m
- ii. Must be attached to the vessel such that it is suspended from a point a minimum of 5m above the water at the stern on the windward side of the point where the hookline enters the water.
- iii. Must be attached so that the aerial extent is maintained over the sinking baited hooks.
- iv. Streamers must be less than 5m apart, be using swivels and long enough so that they are as close to the water as possible.
- v. If two (i.e. paired) tori lines are used, the two lines must be deployed on opposing sides of the main line.

2b) Short Streamer (For vessels ≥ 24 m total length)

- i. Must be attached to the vessel such that it is suspended from a point a minimum of 5m above the water at the stern on the windward side of a point where the hookline enters the water.
- ii. Must be attached so that the aerial extent is maintained over the sinking baited hooks.
- iii. Streamers must be less than 1m apart and be 30 cm minimum length.
- iv. If two (i.e. paired) tori lines are used, the two lines must be deployed on opposing sides of the main line.

2c) Short Streamer (For vessels < 24 m total length)

This design shall be reviewed no later than 3 years from the implementation date based on scientific data.

- i. Must be attached to the vessel such that it is suspended from a point a minimum of 5m above the water at the stern on the windward side of a point where the hookline enters the water.
- ii. Must be attached so that the aerial extent is maintained over the sinking baited hooks.
- iii. If streamers are used, it is encouraged to use the streamers designed to be less than 1m apart and be 30cm minimum length.
- iv. If two (i.e. paired) tori lines are used, the two lines must be deployed on opposing sides of the mainline.

3. Side setting with bird curtain and weighted branch lines

- i. Mainline deployed from port or starboard side as far from stern as practicable (at least 1m), and if mainline shooter is used, must be mounted at least 1m forward of the stern.
- ii. When seabirds are present the gear must ensure mainline is deployed slack so that baited hooks remain submerged.
- iii. Bird curtain must be employed:
 - Pole aft of line shooter at least 3m long;
 - Minimum of 3 main streamers attached to upper 2m of pole;
 - Main streamer diameter minimum 20mm;
 - Branch streamers attached to end of each main streamer long enough to drag on water (no wind) – minimum diameter 10mm.

4. Night setting

- i. No setting between nautical dawn and before nautical dusk.
- ii. Nautical dusk and nautical dawn are defined as set out in the Nautical Almanac tables for relevant latitude, local time and date.
- iii. Deck lighting to be kept to a minimum. Minimum deck lighting should not breach minimum standards for safety and navigation.

5. Weighted branch lines

- i. Following minimum weight specifications are required:
 - a) one weight greater than or equal to 40g within 50cm of the hook; or
 - b) greater than or equal to a total of 45g attached to within 1 m of the hook; or
 - c) greater than or equal to a total of 60 g attached to within 3.5 m of the hook; or
 - d) greater than or equal to a total of 98 g weight attached to within 4 m of the hook.

6. Hook-shielding devices

Hook-shielding devices encase the point and barb of baited hooks to prevent seabird attacks during line setting. The following devices have been approved for use in WCPFC fisheries:

1. Hookpods, which comply with the following performance characteristics⁴
 - a) the device encases the point and barb of the hook until it reaches a depth of at least 10 metres or has been immersed for at least 10 minutes;
 - b) the device meets current minimum standards for branch line weighting as specified in this Annex; and
 - c) the device is designed to be retained on the fishing gear rather than being lost.

7. Management of offal discharge

- i. Either no offal discharge during setting or hauling;
- ii. Or strategic offal discharge from the opposite side of the boat to setting/hauling to actively encourage birds away from baited hooks.

8. Blue-dyed bait

- i. If using blue-dyed bait it must be fully thawed when dyed.
- ii. The Commission Secretariat shall distribute a standardized colour placard.
- iii. All bait must be dyed to the shade shown in the placard.

⁴Noted by SC14.

9. Deep setting line shooter

- i. Line shooters must be deployed in a manner such that the hooks are set substantially deeper than they would be lacking the use of the line shooter, and such that the majority of hooks reach depths of at least 100 m.

Annex 2. Guidelines for reporting templates for annual Part 1 reports

The following tables should be included in the annual Part 1 country reports, summarising the most recent five years.

Table x: Effort, observed and estimated seabird captures by fishing year for [CCM] [South of 30°S; 25°S-30°S; North of 23°N; or 23°N – 25°S¹]. For each year, the table gives the total number of hooks; the number of observed hooks; observer coverage (the percentage of hooks that were observed); the number of observed captures (both dead and alive); and the capture rate (captures per thousand hooks).

Year	Fishing effort				Observed seabird captures	
	Number of vessels	Number of hooks	Observed hooks	% hooks observed	Number	Rate ²
[year]						
[year]						
[year]						
[previous year e.g. 2017]						
[current year e.g. 2018]						

¹ Insert ‘North of 23°N’, ‘South of 30°S’, ‘25°S-30°S’ or ‘23°N – 25°S’. For CCMs fishing in all areas, provide separate tables for each area.

² Provide data as captures per one thousand hooks.

Table y: Proportion of mitigation types¹ used by the fleet in [year].

	Combination of Mitigation Measures	Proportion of observed effort using mitigation measures					
		South of 30°S	25°S-30°S	25°S to 23°N	North of 23°N		
	No mitigation measures						
Options required south of 25°S	TL + NS						
	TL + WB						
	NS + WB						
	TL + WB + NS						
	HS						
Other options 25°S-30°S	WB						
	TL						
Other options north of 23°N	SS/BC/WB/DSLS						
	SS/BC/WB/(MOD or BDB)						
Provide any other combination of mitigation measures here							
	Totals (must equal 100%)						

¹ TL = tori line, NS = night setting, WB = weighted branch lines, SS = side setting, BC = bird curtain, BDB = blue dyed bait, DSLS = deep setting line shooter, MOD = management of offal discharge, HS = hook-shielding device.

Table z: Number of observed seabird captures in [CCM] longline fisheries, 2012, by species and area.

Species	South of 30°S	25°S-30°S	North of 23°N	23°N –25°S	Total
E.g. Antipodean albatross					
[species name]					
[species name]					
[species name]					
[species name]					
[species name]					
[species name]					
Total					



COMMISSION
FIFTEENTH REGULAR SESSION
Honolulu, Hawaii, USA
10 – 14 December 2018

CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF SEA TURTLES

Conservation and Management Measure 2018-04*

The Commission for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean;

In accordance with the Convention on the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean:

Recognizing the ecological and cultural significance of all species of sea turtles in the western and central Pacific Ocean (WCPO);

Further recognizing that the five marine turtle species in the WCPFC Convention Area are threatened or critically endangered;

Considering the adverse effects of fishing for highly migratory fish stocks on some populations of sea turtles in the WCPO through capture, injury and mortality;

Acknowledging that the Commission has adopted measures and reporting requirements for sea turtle interactions in longline fisheries that fish for swordfish in a shallow-set manner;

Deeply concerned that the Pacific leatherback (*Dermochelys coriacea*) subpopulations have declined drastically over the last three decades;

Guided by recent work that has led to advancements in best practices and technologies to avoid interactions and/or reduce the severity of interactions with sea turtles, through scientific studies including WCPFC and Common Oceans (ABNJ) Tuna Project workshops (2016) on the Joint Analysis of Sea Turtle Mitigation Effectiveness, which indicate that the use of large circle hooks and fish bait, independently and together, reduce the rate of interaction and significantly decreases sea turtle bycatch;

Acknowledging that many countries have undertaken circle hook trials in their longline fisheries in the last decade;

Affirming that additional measures should be undertaken to reduce sea turtle bycatch and mortality in tuna fisheries;

** Version issued 2 May 2019*

Acknowledging that relatively simple proactive and reactive efforts on the part of fishermen can serve to both avoid sea turtle interactions and minimize the adverse consequences of such interactions when they occur;

Noting that shallow set longline fisheries also pose significant risks to vulnerable seabird populations in higher latitudes and the necessity to achieve a balance in mitigation requirements across species vulnerable to longline interactions;

Adopts, in accordance with Articles 5 and 10 of the Convention, that:

1. Commission Members, Cooperating non-Members and participating Territories (CCMs) will implement, as appropriate the FAO Guidelines to Reduce Sea Turtle Mortality in Fishing Operations and ensure the safe handling of all captured sea turtles, in order to improve their survival.
2. CCMs shall report to the Commission in Part 2 of their annual reports the progress of implementation of this measure, including information collected on interactions with sea turtles in fisheries managed under the Convention.
3. All data collected by the WCPFC Regional Observer Program (ROP) on sea turtle interactions shall be reported as agreed to under other Commission data collection provisions.
4. CCMs shall require fishermen on vessels targeting species covered by the Convention to bring aboard, if practicable, any captured hard-shell sea turtle that is comatose or inactive as soon as possible and foster its recovery, including giving it resuscitation, before returning it to the water. CCMs shall ensure that fishermen are aware of and use proper mitigation and handling techniques, as described in WCPFC guidelines.
5. CCMs with purse seine vessels that fish for species covered by the Convention shall:
 - a. Ensure that operators of such vessels, while fishing in the Convention Area:
 - i. To the extent practicable, avoid encirclement of sea turtles, and if a sea turtle is encircled or entangled, take practicable measures to safely release the turtle.
 - ii. To the extent practicable, release all sea turtles observed entangled in fish aggregating devices (FADs) or other fishing gear.
 - iii. If a sea turtle is entangled in the net, stop net roll as soon as the turtle comes out of the water; disentangle the turtle without injuring it before resuming the net roll; and to the extent practicable, assist the recovery of the turtle before returning it to the water.
 - iv. Carry and employ dip nets, when appropriate, to handle turtles.
 - b. Require that operators of such vessels record all incidents involving sea turtles during fishing operations and report such incidents to the appropriate authorities of the CCM.

- c. Provide the results of the reporting under paragraph 5(b) to the Commission in their annual reporting of Scientific Data to be Provided to the Commission.
- d. Provide to the Commission the results of any research related to the development of modified FAD designs to reduce sea turtle entanglement and take measures to encourage the use of designs found to be successful at such reduction.

6. CCMs with longline vessels that fish for species covered by the Convention shall ensure that the operators of all such longline vessels carry and use line cutters and de-hookers to handle and promptly release sea turtles caught or entangled, and that they do so in accordance with WCPFC guidelines. CCMs shall also ensure that operators of such vessels are, where appropriate, required to carry and use dip-nets in accordance with these WCPFC guidelines.

7. CCMs with longline vessels that fish in a shallow-set manner¹ shall:

- a. Ensure that the operators of such vessels, while in the Convention Area, are required to employ or implement at least one of the following three methods to mitigate the capture of sea turtles:
 - i. Use only large circle hooks, which are fishing hooks that are generally circular or oval in shape and originally designed and manufactured so that the point is turned perpendicularly back to the shank. These hooks shall have an offset not to exceed 10 degrees.
 - ii. Use only finfish for bait.
 - iii. Use any other measure, mitigation plan² or activity that has been reviewed by the Scientific Committee (SC) and the Technical and Compliance Committee (TCC) and approved by the Commission to be capable of reducing the interaction rate (observed numbers per hooks fished) of turtles in shallow-set longline fisheries.
- b. The requirements of paragraph 7(a) need not be applied to those shallow-set longline fisheries determined by the SC, based on information provided by the relevant CCM, to have minimal³ observed interaction rates of sea turtles over a three-year period and a level of observer coverage of at least 10% during each of those three years.
- c. For the purpose of implementing this paragraph (7), establish and enforce their own operational definitions of shallow-set longline fisheries, large circle hooks, and any measures under 7(a)(iii) or adopted by the Commission under paragraph 12, ensuring that they are as enforceable as possible, and report these definitions to the Commission in Part 2 of their annual reports.

¹ “Shallow-set” fisheries are generally to be considered those in which the majority of hooks fish at depth shallower than 100 meters; however pursuant to paragraph 7(c) CCMs are to establish and enforce their own operational definitions.

² A mitigation plan details the actions that will be taken to achieve specified reductions in sea turtle interactions.

³ As determined by SC5.

- d. Provide for their longline vessels to record all incidents involving sea turtles during fishing operations and report such incidents to the appropriate authorities of the CCM.
- e. Provide the results of the reporting under paragraph 7(d) in their annual reporting of Scientific Data to be Provided to the Commission.

8. CCMs with longline fisheries other than shallow-set fisheries are urged to:

- a. Undertake research trials of circle hooks and other mitigation methods in those longline fisheries.
- b. Report the results of these trials to the SC and TCC, at least 60 days in advance of the annual meetings of these subsidiary bodies.

9. The SC and TCC will review information reported by CCMs pursuant to this measure. Where necessary an updated suite of mitigation measures, specifications for mitigation measures, or recommendations for their application will be developed by these committees and provided to the Commission for its consideration and review.

10. This measure authorizes the Secretariat to obligate resources available to the Special Requirements Fund to be used to assist developing State Members and Territories in implementing the FAO Guidelines to Reduce Sea Turtle Mortality. These funds can be used to train and encourage fishers to adopt appropriate methods and technologies to reduce interactions with sea turtles and to mitigate their adverse effects.

11. The Commission urges CCMs to contribute to the Special Requirements Fund to support eligible members in their efforts to implement this measure, or to provide such support through bilateral arrangements.

12. This measure will be reviewed by the Commission in 2021 to consider expanding the scope of the measure to include mitigation measures for deep-set longline fisheries, based on advice from the SC and TCC and on information provided by CCMs pursuant to this measure.

13. Nothing in this measure shall prejudice the sovereignty and sovereign rights of coastal States, including for traditional fishing activities and the rights of traditional artisanal fishers, to apply alternative measures for the purpose of exploring, exploiting, conserving and managing sea turtles, including any national plans of action for the conservation and management of sea turtles, within areas under their national jurisdiction.

14. This measure will take effect on 1 January 2020, and shall replace CMM 2008-03.



**COMMISSION
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10 – 14 December 2018

**CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURE FOR THE
REGIONAL OBSERVER PROGRAMME**

Conservation and Management Measure 2018-05¹

The Commission for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean;

Recalling Article 28(1) of the Convention on the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (WCPFC Convention), which requires the Commission to develop a Regional Observer Programme to, among other things, collect verified catch data, and to monitor the implementation of the conservation and management measures adopted by the Commission;

Further recalling Article 28(7) of the WCPFC Convention, which requires the Commission to develop procedures and guidelines for the operation of the Regional Observer Programme;

Cognizant of Conservation and Management Measure 2006-07, which established the procedures to develop the WCPFC Regional Observer Programme;

Adopts, in accordance with Article 10 of the WCPFC Convention the following Conservation and Management Measure for the establishment of the WCPFC Regional Observer Programme (Commission ROP).

Establishment of the Commission ROP

1. There is hereby established the Commission ROP, which shall be coordinated by the Secretariat of the Commission.
2. The ROP shall be implemented on a phased basis. The implementation schedule is attached as Annex C.
3. The Secretariat of the Commission shall provide an annual report to the Commission with regard to the Commission ROP and on other matters relevant to the efficient operation of the programme.

¹ This measure updates and revises CMM 2007-01, and as was agreed by the Commission at WCPFC15 (2018).

Objectives of the Commission ROP

4. The objectives of the Commission ROP shall be to collect verified catch data, other scientific data, and additional information related to the fishery from the Convention Area and to monitor the implementation of the conservation and management measures adopted by the Commission.

Scope of the Commission ROP

5. The Commission ROP shall apply to the following categories of fishing vessels authorized to fish in the Convention Area in accordance with the Commission's Conservation and Management Measure 2004-01 (or its replacement CMM):

- i) vessels fishing exclusively on the high seas in the Convention Area, and
- ii) vessels fishing on the high seas and in waters under the jurisdiction of one or more coastal States and vessels fishing in the waters under the national jurisdiction of two or more coastal States.

Functions of observers

6. The functions of observers operating under the Commission ROP shall include collecting catch data and other scientific data, monitoring the implementation of the conservation and management measures adopted by the Commission and any additional information related to the fishery that may be approved by the Commission. When a vessel is operating on the same fishing trip both in waters under the national jurisdiction of its flag State and in the adjacent high seas, an observer placed under the Commission ROP shall not undertake any of these functions in waters under national jurisdiction of the flag State without the consent of the flag State.

Obligations of CCMs of the Commission

7. Each CCM of the Commission shall ensure that fishing vessels fishing in the Convention Area, except for vessels that operate exclusively within waters under the national jurisdiction of the flag State, are prepared to accept an observer from the Commission ROP if required by the Commission.

8. Each CCM of the Commission shall be responsible for meeting the level of observer coverage as set by the Commission.

9. CCMs shall source observers for their vessels as determined by the Commission.

10. CCMs shall explain to the vessel captain, observer duties relevant to appropriate measures adopted by the Commission.

11. CCMs shall take advantage of the information collected by observers for the purpose of investigations under Convention Articles 23 and 25, and shall cooperate in the exchange of such information, including by proactively requesting, responding to, and facilitating the fulfilment of requests for, copies of observer reports in accordance with standards adopted by the Commission, as applicable.

Role of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies

12. The Commission shall, through its subsidiary bodies within their respective mandates, monitor and supervise the implementation of the ROP, develop the priorities and objectives of the ROP, and assess the results of the ROP. The Commission may provide further direction concerning the operation of the ROP, as necessary. The Commission shall ensure the administration and coordination of the ROP is adequately resourced. The Commission may enter into contracts for the provision of the ROP.

Role of the Secretariat

13. Consistent with Article 15(4), the role of the Secretariat will be to:

- a) coordinate ROP activities, including, *inter alia*:
 - i) maintaining the ROP Manual and the ROP Observer Workbook;
 - ii) so that existing national programmes and sub-regional programmes participating in the ROP maintain standards as adopted by the Commission;
 - iii) receiving communications and providing reports on the ROP's operation to the Commission (and its subsidiary bodies); including target and achieved coverage levels;
 - iv) coordinating ROP activities with other RFMOs as directed and appropriate;
 - v) facilitating the use of authorized observers in the ROP;
 - vi) monitoring observer trainers and observer training courses for ROP observers to promote the maintenance of standards adopted by the Commission;
 - vii) that the ROP addresses the data and monitoring requirements of the Commission's CMMs;
 - viii) that appropriate information and data for the monitoring of the implementation of CMMs as adopted by the Commission are collected, compiled, stored and disseminated by the ROP in accordance with procedures adopted by the Commission;
 - ix) managing and administering observers for special situations as directed by the Commission;
 - x) support staff necessary to effectively administer the ROP; and
 - xi) maintain on the Commission website an up-to-date list of the National Observer Coordinators and their contact information, and copies of, or links to, each ROP provider's code of conduct for its observers.
- b) authorize observer providers to the ROP.

Role of coastal States

13. Each CCM shall nominate a WCPFC National Observer Coordinator, who shall be the contact point on matters related to the ROP, and keep the Secretariat informed of any changes to the Coordinator and his/her contact information.

Guiding principles for operation of the Commission ROP

14. The Commission ROP shall operate in accordance with the following principles:
- i) The Commission ROP shall consist of independent and impartial observers qualified in accordance with criteria approved by the Commission;
 - ii) Vessels that operate principally in coastal waters, but occasionally venture on to the adjacent high seas or into the waters under the jurisdiction of a neighboring State, if they so agree, may carry observers of their own nationality provided those observers have been authorized by the Secretariat;²
 - iii) The Commission ROP shall be organized in a flexible manner that takes into account the nature of the fishery from the Convention Area and any other relevant factors the Commission may consider appropriate;
 - iv) To ensure cost effectiveness and to avoid duplication, the Commission's ROP shall be coordinated, to the maximum extent possible, with other regional, sub- regional and national observer programmes; and to this extent the Commission may enter into contracts or appropriate arrangements for the provision of the ROP.
 - v) The Commission ROP shall provide a sufficient level of coverage as approved by the Commission to ensure that the Commission receives appropriate data and information on catch levels and any additional information related to the fisheries within the Convention Area, taking into account the characteristics of the fisheries;
 - vi) Observers shall not unduly interfere with the lawful operations of the vessel and in carrying out their duties shall give due consideration to the operational requirements of the vessel and to the extent practicable minimize disruption to the operation of vessels fishing in the Convention Area; Observers shall comply with the Guidelines in **Annex A** — Guidelines for the Rights and Responsibilities of Observers.
 - vii) The Commission ROP shall be operated to ensure that observers shall not be unduly obstructed in the discharge of their duties. To this extent, CCMs of the Commission shall ensure that vessel operators comply with the Guidelines in **Annex B** — Guidelines for the Rights and Responsibilities of Vessel Operators, Captains and Crew.
 - viii) The Commission ROP shall ensure the security and confidentiality of non- aggregated data and other information which the Commission deems to be of a confidential nature; the release of data and other information collected by the Commission ROP shall be in accordance with guidelines set out in the Commission's Rules and Procedures for Access to, and Dissemination of, Data Compiled by the Commission.

² See TCC2 Summary Report, para 54ii: "the need to integrate existing national and regional observer programmes into the Commission programme and "to allow CCMs to continue to deploy national observers on vessels that principally operate in coastal waters and that occasionally extend their fishing operations on to the high seas."

Guidelines on the Rights and Responsibilities of Observers

In accordance with Annex III Article 3, and article 28 of the Convention for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific. The following guidelines for the Rights and Responsibilities of Observers shall apply to observers placed on a vessel under the Commission ROP.

1. The rights of observers shall include:

- a) Full access to and use of all facilities and equipment of the vessel which the observer may determine is necessary to carry out his or her duties, including full access to the bridge, fish on board, and areas which may be used to hold, process, weigh, and store fish.
- b) Full access to the vessel's records including its logs and documentation for the purpose of records inspection and copying, reasonable access to navigational equipment, charts and radios, and reasonable access to other information relating to fishing.
- c) Access to and use of communications equipment and personnel, upon request, for entry, transmission, and receipt of work related data or information.
- d) Access to additional equipment, if present, to facilitate the work of the observer while on board the vessel, such as high powered binoculars, electronic means of communication, etc.
- e) Access to the working deck during net or line retrieval and to specimens (alive or dead) in order to collect and remove samples.
- f) Notice by the vessel captain of at least fifteen (15) minutes before hauling or setting procedures, unless the observer specifically requests not to be notified.
- g) Access to food, accommodations, medical facilities, and sanitary facilities of a reasonable standard equivalent to those normally available to an officer on board the vessel.
- h) The provision of adequate space on the bridge or other designated area for clerical work and adequate space on the deck for observer duties.
- i) Freedom to carry out their duties without being assaulted, obstructed, resisted, delayed, intimidated or interfered with in the performance of their duties.

2. The responsibilities of observers shall include:

- a) Being capable of performing the duties set out by the Commission.
- b) Acceptance and compliance with agreed upon confidentiality rules and procedures with respect to the fishing operations of the vessels and of the vessel owners.
- c) Maintenance of independence and impartiality at all times while on duty in the ROP.

- d) Compliance with the ROP protocols for observers carrying out ROP duties on board a vessel.
- e) Compliance with the laws and regulations of the CCM that exercises jurisdiction over the vessel.
- f) Respecting the hierarchy and general rules of behavior that apply to all vessel personnel.
- g) Performance of duties in a manner that does not unduly interfere with the lawful operations of the vessel and in carrying out their functions they shall give due consideration to the operational requirements of the vessel and shall communicate regularly with the captain or master of the vessel.
- h) Familiarity with the emergency procedures aboard the vessel, including the locations of life rafts, fire extinguishers, and first aid kits.
- i) Communicating regularly with the vessel captain on relevant observer issues and duties.
- j) Observance of ethnic traditions of the crew and customs of the flag State of the vessel.
- k) Adherence to the applicable Code of Conduct for observers.
- l) Promptly writing and submitting reports to the Commission or national programme in accordance with procedures adopted by the Commission.

Guidelines on the Rights and Responsibilities of Vessel Operators, Captain and Crew

In accordance with Annex III, Article 3, and Article 28 of the Convention for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific. The following Guidelines on the Rights and Responsibilities of Vessel Operators, Captain and Crew shall apply when an observer is placed under the Commission ROP.

Rights and responsibilities of vessel operators and captains

- 1. The rights of vessel operators and captains shall include:**
 - a) Expectation that a reasonable period of prior notice of the placement of an ROP observer shall be given.
 - b) Expectation that the observer will comply with the general rules of behavior, hierarchy, and laws and regulations of the CCM of the Commission that exercises jurisdiction over the vessel.
 - c) Timely notification from the observer provider on completion of the observer's trip of any comments regarding the vessel operations. The captain shall have the opportunity to review and comment on the observer's report, and shall have the right to include additional information deemed relevant or a personal statement.
 - d) Ability to conduct lawful operations of the vessel without undue interference due to the observer's presence and performance of necessary duties.
 - e) Ability to assign, at his or her discretion, a vessel crew member to accompany the observer when the observer is carrying out duties in hazardous areas.
- 2. The responsibilities of vessel operators and captains shall include:**
 - a) Accepting onboard the vessel any person identified as an observer under the ROP when required by the Commission.
 - b) Informing the crew of the timing of the ROP observer boarding as well as their rights and responsibilities when an ROP observer boards the vessel.
 - c) Assisting the ROP observer to safely embark and disembark the vessel at an agreed upon place and time.
 - d) Giving notice to the ROP observer at least fifteen (15) minutes before the start of a set or haul onboard, unless the observer specifically requests not to be notified.
 - e) Allow and assist the ROP observer to carry out all duties safely.
 - f) Allowing ROP observer full access to the vessel's records including vessel logs and documentation for the purpose of records inspection and copying.
 - g) Allowing reasonable access to navigational equipment, charts and radios, and reasonable access to other information relating to fishing.
 - h) Permitting access to additional equipment, if present, to facilitate the work of the ROP observer while onboard the vessel, such as high powered binoculars, electronic means of communication, etc.

- i) Allow and assist the ROP observer to remove and store samples from the catch.
- j) The provision to the ROP observer, while onboard the vessel, at no expense to the observer or the ROP observer's provider or government, with food, accommodation, adequate sanitary amenities, and medical facilities of a reasonable standard equivalent to those normally available to an officer onboard the vessel.
- k) The provision to the ROP observer, while onboard the vessel, insurance coverage for the duration of the observer's time onboard the vessel.
- j) Allow and assist full access to and use of all facilities and equipment of the vessel that the observer may determine is necessary to carry out his or her duties, including full access to the bridge, fish onboard, and areas which may be used to hold, process, weigh, and store fish.
- m) Ensuring the ROP observer is not assaulted, obstructed, resisted, delayed, intimidated, interfered with, influenced, bribed or is attempted to be bribed in the performance of their duties, ensuring the ROP observer is not coerced or convinced to breach his/her responsibilities, and facilitating the observer's adherence to the applicable code of conduct.

Rights and responsibilities of vessel crew

3. The rights of vessel crew shall include:

- a) Expectation that the ROP observer will comply with the general rules of behavior, hierarchy, and laws and regulations of the CCM that exercises jurisdiction over the vessel.
- b) Expectation that a reasonable period of prior notice of the placement of a ROP observer shall be given by the Captain.
- c) Reasonable expectation of privacy in crew personal areas.
- d) Ability to carry out duties associated with normal fishing operations without undue interference due to the ROP observer's presence and performance of their necessary duties.

4. The responsibilities of the vessel crew shall include:

- a) Not assaulting, obstructing, resisting, intimidating, influencing, or interfering with the ROP observer or impeding or delaying observer duties, not coercing or convincing the ROP observer to breach his/her responsibilities, and facilitating the observer's adherence to the applicable code of conduct.
- b) Compliance with regulations and procedures established under the Convention and other guidelines, regulations, or conditions established by the CCM that exercises jurisdiction over the vessel.
- c) Allowing and assisting full access to and use of all facilities and equipment of the vessel which the observer may determine is necessary to carry out his or her duties, including full access to the bridge, fish onboard, and areas that may be used to hold, process, weigh, and store fish.
- d) Allow and assist the ROP observer to carry out all duties safely.
- e) Allow and assist the ROP observer to remove and store samples from the catch.
- f) Compliance with directions given by the vessel captain with respect to the ROP observers duties.

Implementation programme for the Regional Observer Programme

1. When the measure enters into force, CCMs shall commence implementation of the ROP, in accordance with the measure adopted at WCPFC4, by using the sub-regional and national programmes already operational in the region. CCMs are encouraged to submit data from such programmes as soon as possible.
2. At the direction of the Commission, the IWG-ROP shall continue to develop the framework and important elements of the ROP (e.g. determination of minimum vessel size for observer coverage, training and accreditation of observers, roles and responsibilities of observers, data requirements, cost issues, and appropriate effort units for expressing coverage levels).
3. Arrangements in 2008 do not preclude future development of the ROP by the Commission.
4. No later than 31 December 2008:
 - Existing sub-regional programmes and national programmes shall be regarded as a part of the ROP, and shall continue unless otherwise determined by the Commission.
 - Data obtained through these observer programmes shall be submitted to the Commission and shall be considered Commission data.
5. During the period 1 January 2009–31 December 2010:
 - The Commission shall review the recommendations from the IWG-ROP, SC, and TCC and further develop, and refine as necessary, the ROP, including application of the ROP.
6. No later than 30 June 2012, CCMs shall achieve 5% coverage of the effort in each fishery under the jurisdiction of the Commission (except for vessels provided for in paras 9 and 10). In order to facilitate the placement of observers the logistics may dictate that this be done on the basis of trips.
7. At the 2012 annual sessions of the SC and TCC, the data generated by the ROP shall be reviewed and those subsidiary bodies shall make appropriate recommendations to the Commission. Based on the advice and recommendations of the SC and TCC, the Commission shall annually review the ROP and make adjustments as necessary. Among the elements of the ROP to be reviewed are the provisions of para 10 on vessels initially deferred from application of the ROP.
8. CCMs shall also be expected to meet any additional ROP observer obligations that may be included in any measure adopted by WCPFC, such as provisions of a catch retention measure, a FAD management measure or a transshipment measure. Such measures may include observer requirements for freezer longliners, purse seiners and/or carriers.

Special circumstances

9. Fishing vessels used exclusively to fish for fresh fish³ in the area north of 20 degrees north shall be accorded the following considerations:
 - i) At its 2008 annual session, the Northern Committee shall consider the implementation of the ROP adopted by the Commission by vessels fishing for fresh fish in the area north of 20 degrees north.
 - ii) At its 2010 annual session, the Northern Committee shall make recommendations to the Commission on the implementation of the ROP by fishing vessels fishing for fresh fish in the area north of 20 degrees north.
 - iii) The recommendations of the Northern Committee shall provide a date for implementation of the ROP by vessels fishing for fresh fish in the area north of 20 degrees north no later than 31 December 2014.

10. The implementation schedule for the following vessels shall be deferred:
 - i) small vessels, the minimum size of which shall be considered by the IWG-ROP for recommendation to the Commission in 2008.
 - ii) troll and pole-and-line vessels used for fishing for skipjack tuna or albacore (to be scheduled for review by the IWG-ROP).

³ For the purpose of this measure, “fresh fish” means highly migratory fish stocks that are live, whole or dressed/gutted, but not further processed or frozen.



Agreed Minimum Standards and Guidelines of the Regional Observer Programme¹

The majority of the agreed minimum standards for the ROP were generated and discussed during the IWGROP(1) (2) (3) workshops 2007-2009 since then IWGROP4 2015 has added additional standards, and other standards have been individually discussed at various subsidiary meetings and are also included. The meetings where the standards were discussed recommended and agreed have been included at the end of each standard. Also included at the end of this document are suggested guidelines for ROP's to use as guides; these were agreed to be guidelines rather than agreed minimum standards.

A number of standards were agreed as per the IWG/SC/TCC meetings recommendations with no changes at the annual Commission meetings; Some IWG/SC/TCC recommendations were discussed further and changed at the Commission annual meeting. Therefore the Subsidiary body meeting recommendations may vary slightly in wording from the original recommendation from the Annual Commission meetings. All the agreed standards are required to be maintained by the Commission ROP's. The ROP expectations in these tables are guides unless indicated otherwise on how the minimum standard maybe achieved.

The agreed minimum standards are part of the Commission Audit process of Regional Observer Programmes; questions related to the standards are asked during the audit process to determine if a programme is fulfilling the required standard, or whether the programme may need assistance to help achieve the required standards.

Item	Standard Required
<p><u>Authorization Process</u></p> <p>Authorisation process is the standards required to obtain interim and full authorisation to be part of the ROP.</p> <p>The process of gaining full authorisation is to be carried out following an audit of the programme to ensure that standards are in place or are being developed</p>	<p>The Secretariat will authorize national observer programmes, rather than individual observers; this is consistent with the Convention text. CMM-2007-01 Para 12(b) also states that the Secretariat will authorize observer providers. <i>IWGROP2/TCC4/WCPFC5</i></p> <p>ROP expectation on the authorisation process.</p> <p>Before auditing takes place the programme will have been interim authorised by the Secretariat according to the rules and standards as adopted by the Commission.</p> <p>This will necessitate all programmes to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supply manuals and guides to the Secretariat • Nominate a National ROP Observer Coordinator • Supply lists of all current observers. • Supply an official letter requesting ROP inclusion. <p>Refer <i>IWGROP2/TCC4/WCPFC5</i></p>

Item	Standard Required
<p><u>Briefing and Debriefing</u></p> <p><u>Briefing</u> of observers is a specially arranged session with the observer and provider endorsed briefing personnel; Briefing is to ensure that the observer understand clearly the roles and duties the observers are expected to carry out on a vessel before a trip.</p> <p><u>Debriefing</u> of observers, is a specially arranged session with the observer and the provider endorsed debriefer to ensure that the data and information collected by an observer is checked for discrepancies and can be corrected before the Information is entered into a data base or used for analysis.</p> <p>It is also a period when the observer can report critical incidents for further attention.</p>	<p>The standard for “Briefing and De-briefing of observers” is that there is a system for briefing and de-briefing of observers in place and documentation describing briefing and de-briefing available to the Secretariat <i>IWGROP2/TCC4/WCPFC5</i></p>
	<p>ROP Expectation on the “Briefing and Debriefing” of Observers</p> <p>Different stages of briefing may be carried out before an observer departs on their trip</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Observers to be briefed by the provider 2. Observer and vessel briefed together by authorised briefers or officer. <p>* This may be done separately or combined in the one briefing if time does not permit two briefings.</p> <p><u>Briefing</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Observer providers authorised by the Commission ROP are to ensure briefing of their observers is carried out • Briefings must be facilitated by an experienced facilitator and should be conducted at the beginning of an observer trip. • Briefings procedures should follow a consistent format. • Briefing should provide opportunities to ensure that both the captain and observer fully understand the role of the observer on board the vessel, and reinforce the responsibility of the vessel to accommodate and feed the observer to officer standard. • The utmost effort is made to ensure that a new observer should not be placed unless a proper briefing meeting can be arranged. • Providers may wish to have a briefing form that can be read out and agreed by the captain and observer by signing the form that they understand the conditions, roles, etc. when the observer is on board the vessel; a copy should be given to the captain. <p><u>Debriefings</u></p> <p>Debriefing should be carried out at the end of each observer trip by an authorised provider debriefer.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Observer providers authorised by the Commission ROP should ensure rigorous debriefing of returning observers data, reports, health and wellbeing is carried out. • Debriefings should be facilitated by an experienced facilitator and should be conducted at the end of an observer trip after the observer leaves the vessel. • Debriefings procedures should follow a consistent format. • Debriefing of critical incidents should be reported immediately to the relevant authority’s as indicated in the provider procedures

Item	Standard Required
<p><u>Briefing and Debriefing Training</u></p> <p>“Briefing Training” should be training carried out by qualified personnel.</p> <p>“Debriefing Training” will be specialised training by qualified personnel of a group of participants selected by a rigorous selection criteria to become fully authorised observer debriefers of all gear types.</p>	<p>The standard for qualification of observer debriefers is that debriefers will be experienced in observer matters and that CCMs will use existing national and sub-regional programme standards for debriefers. CCMs will prepare qualifications for a debriefer, available for review by the Secretariat.</p> <p><i>IWGROP3/TCC5/WCPFC6</i></p>
	<p>ROP expectation on the briefing and debriefing training of briefers and debriefers.</p> <p><u>Briefing Training</u></p> <p>Briefers should have undergone training programmes designed to educate them in the techniques of interviewing and they require the knowledge of the roles of an observer and understand the conditions that an observer may experience while at sea on a vessel.</p> <p><u>Debriefer Training</u></p> <p>Debriefer trainers should have undergone training programmes designed to educate them in the techniques of interviewing observers, and to debrief observer collected information and material.</p> <p>Debriefer training instructors should have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an intimate knowledge of observer work, data collections and reporting; • experienced conditions at sea, preferably as an observer, • a good understanding of the fishery and the management of that fishery; • good communication skills that can give clear and understandable messages in a straight forward manner; • good knowledge of the Commission CMM’s relevant to Observers; <p>Note</p> <p>Where practical NOP/SOP Programme Coordinators/ Managers should also take part in the training, in order to develop closer relationships with their potential debriefers and observers.</p>

Item	Standard Required
<p><u>Coordinating Observer Placements and the Deployment of Observers</u></p> <p>The provider of the observers will be responsible for the deployment of the observer and will ensure the selected observer is provided with all possible assistance to board a vessel.</p>	<p>The standard for “Coordinating Placement” is the WCPFC National Observer Programme Coordinator should be in place, there should be a system for observer placement administration and documentation describing observer placement should be provided to the Secretariat. <i>IWGROP2/TCC4/WCPFC5</i></p> <p>The standard for deploying ROP observers is that CCMs shall use existing deployment procedures in place for their national and sub-regional programmes. CCMs will develop these procedures, and make them available for review by the Secretariat. <i>IWGROP3/TCC5/WCPFC6</i></p>
	<p>ROP expectation on Coordinating Observer Placements and the Deployment of Observers:</p>
	<p>It is the responsibility of the observer provider to administer observer placements, including costs, which may be recovered by various means. Providers should organise the final payment of the ROP observers salary and sea allowances provided all commitments are completed as soon as practical after the observers return to port;</p> <p>The provider is expected to carry out the following functions;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Communicate to flag State about intending deployments and arrange date and time of boarding’s. 2) Communicate to the ROP observer on the agreed boarding date and time 3) Assist with the procurement of observer visas, entry permits, waivers and any travel documents required to transport the observer to the departure or arrival port of the vessel. 4) Organize all travel arrangements including air, bus or ferry schedules; 5) Brief ROP observer on any prioritized scientific, biological, management and operational data that is required to be collected for each trip; 6) Coordinate a briefing of the ROP observer and the vessel captain or master before departure to advise on the CMM and other obligations regarding the observer and vessel. 7) Check the safety standards of the vessel before the observer departs; 8) Ensure all relevant equipment to the ROP observer for carrying out their duties, including the collection of data and biological sampling is supplied. 9) Supply forms and workbooks in whatever format is used in the national programme, but ensuring that it contain the ROP minimum data standards; 10) Ensure the vessel understands that the observer has to have proper accommodation and bedding; 11) Arrange another vessel for boarding preferably from the same flag State fleet if due to unforeseen circumstances the target vessel becomes unavailable due to mechanical or other problems such as safety, and is not favourable to the placement of an ROP observer; 12) Arrange communication schedules with observers for the time they are on board the vessel; 13) Debrief the ROP observer, using ROP authorised debriefers as soon as possible on their return to port; 14) Collect from the observer all data, images, and reports after their trip; 15) Ensure all data obligations made at WCPFC meetings on ROP data is followed. 16) maintain regular contact with the observer after their return to provide technical support, personal support, and information on new developments, and to assure the ROP observer is in good health after the trip, and to inform the observer of any future boarding’s or relevant issues arising from the trip just completed;

<p>Item</p> <p><u>Communications</u></p> <p>Communication means that the observer must be aware of the use of communications devices and equipment on board a vessel for their use when required.</p> <p><i>Note that from Jan 1st 2017 a two way texting device or a satellite phone will be communications independent of the vessel communications systems.</i></p>	<p>Standard Required</p>
	<p>The standard for “Communications” is that observers have access to appropriate communication facilities, including emergency communication facilities while on board a vessel. <i>IWGROP2/TCC4/WCPFC5</i></p>
	<p>ROP Expectation on Communications for Observers</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providers should have established regular communication procedure with their observers during a trip; • Providers should ensure that observers understand Safety Communication Codes and protocols before boarding a vessel; • Providers should inform the vessel that they must allow the observer to have access to Communications and should assist when required; • Work related communications may be paid for by the provider unless other arrangements are in place. • Private communications should be available but paid for by the observer.

<p>Item</p> <p><u>Conservation and Management Measures - CMM's</u></p> <p>Providers should display the procedures and mechanism in which they keep observers informed on CMM requirements and should have the ability to carry out additional training on a regular basis of the monitoring requirements.</p>	<p>Commission Requirements</p>
	<p>The providers are to ensure that all observers fully understand the *content of the CMM's especially in relation to their roles and tasks in monitoring the CMM,s (<i>Multiple meeting & CMM references</i>)</p>
	<p>ROP expectation on CMM's for observers</p>
	<p>The observer programme will have in place the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A system to ensure all the programme and observers are continually updated on the requirements of the CMM's. • Ability to ensure observers can be trained in the monitoring of new tasks and roles brought about by the monitoring provisions of the CMM/s. <p><i>Note* that the WCPFC Secretariat publishes a “Hand book of CMMs for WCPFC ROP observers” these hand books are available in electronic format on the WCPFC Website; or a hard printed copy is sent to all observer providers for distribution to observers. The hand book is updated annually and all providers are to ensure the correct dated copy is given to observers before they depart on a trip.</i></p>

Item	Standard Required
<p><u>Code of Conduct</u></p> <p>Code of Conduct should provide a set of guiding principles relating to accepted behaviour and standards of conduct, while working as an ROP Observer.</p>	<p>The agreed standard for “Code of Conduct” is that each observer provider has a Code of Conduct in place that is readily available to each observer and to the operators of fishing vessels on which observers are deployed, as well as to the Commission through the Secretariat, along with a process for reporting and resolving breaches of the code. <i>WCPFC15</i></p> <p>ROP expectation on Code of Conduct</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The observer provider has a code of conduct for its observers that includes, at a minimum, provisions that address all the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protection of confidential information, and avoidance of personal use of confidential information. • Respect for property, workspaces, and personal spaces, as well as for sanitary practices used on the vessel and practices related to the use of substances such as alcohol, tobacco, and betel nut. • Compliance with the laws and regulations of the CCM that exercises jurisdiction over the vessel. • Respecting the hierarchy and general rules of behavior that apply to all vessel personnel. • Communicating regularly with the vessel captain on relevant observer issues and duties. • Professionalism, such as with respect to maintaining independence and impartiality, and arriving in a timely manner to board the vessel. • Avoiding conflicts of interest, including with respect to the receipt of money, gifts, and other inducements. • Avoiding, and/or the responsible use of, alcohol and other intoxicants. • The period of applicability of each provision, such as in terms of prior to boarding, upon boarding, while on board, upon disembarkation, and while traveling to and from the points of embarkation and disembarkation. 2. The observer provider has processes and procedures through which: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Observers are made aware of the importance of adhering to the code. • The performance of observers with respect to the code is monitored. • Possible breaches of the code can be reported by vessel operators or others. • Possible breaches of the code are investigated and resolved. • The outcomes of possible breaches reported by vessel operators, excepting reported possible breaches that are determined to be <i>de minimus</i>, are reported to the flag State of the fishing vessel and to the Secretariat. • There is a time limit, no greater than that set out in any applicable national laws, within which observers may be sanctioned for breaches of the code.

Item	Standard Required
<p><u>Dispute Settlement</u></p> <p>Dispute occurs when two or more parties disagree over matters involving the roles and tasks of the observer, operations of the vessel, or any other issue involving the observer and a second party.</p> <p>The programme will have procedures to prevent the escalation of conflict, through mediation, facilitation, conciliation, and training.</p> <p>Disputes resolution may require the appointment of an appropriately-composed expert or technical panel.</p>	<p>The standard for “Dispute Settlement” is a dispute resolution mechanism in place, and if not in place, to be developed, and a description of the dispute resolution mechanism provided to the Secretariat</p> <p><i>IWGROP2/TCC4/WCPFC5</i></p>
	<p>ROP expectation on Dispute Settlements</p>
	<p>The programme will have in place the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • procedures to report disputes for both the observer and the vessel; • consultations process allowing all parties to make statements; • process to determine a resolution of the problem through mediation, facilitation and conciliation; • process to appoint an appropriately-composed expert or technical panels if required to resolve the dispute;

Item	Standard Required
<p>Data Fields</p> <p>Data Fields and Minimum Data Standards are defined as Minimum Data Fields approved by the WCPFC for collection by ROP observers.</p>	<p>The agreed standard for “Data Fields, Management, Distribution and Use” will be that CCMs will use existing data field formats collected by their national or sub regional observer programmes (<i>SC3/IWGROP2</i>) /<i>TCC4/WCPFC5 – IWGROP3/TCC5/WCPFC6</i> and that also they will ensure that the Commission minimum data standard fields for the ROP are included in their data collection formats.</p> <p>Flag CCMs and observer providers should cooperate to ensure timely access to ROP data and provision of the ROP data to the Commission. <i>IWGROP4/WCPFC12</i></p> <p>ROP data should be submitted to the Secretariat or SPC where possible within 100 days of the observer disembarking purse seine vessels and within 120 days of the observer disembarking longline vessels. <i>TCC9/WCPFC10</i></p> <p>ROP providers which place observers on fish carrier vessels that transship on the high seas should send the completed data forms, workbooks, reports and journals of the observer to the Commission Secretariat where possible within 120 days of the disembarkation of the observer from the carrier. <i>TCC10/WCPFC11</i></p>
	<p>ROP expectation on the collection of ROP Minimum Standard Data fields</p>
	<p>ROP data includes data collected by an observer when they are on the high seas or in zones other than the flag of the vessel they are aboard.</p> <p>Programmes may continue to use their own formats; however programmes will need to review the data collected by their observers to include the minimum data fields required by the Commission.</p> <p>Data collected by national (NOP) or sub regional observer programmes (SOP) on ROP trips, (original hard copy or unaltered scanned copy) will be sent to the Commission designated data provider (SPC) or to the Commission Secretariat as soon as practical after the return of an observer from their trip. (Within 100 days of the observer disembarking purse seine vessels and within 120 days of the observer disembarking longline vessels and carrier vessels transshipping on the high seas.)</p> <p>All ROP observer data is confidential and may not be distributed or given to any unauthorized organisation or person without going through the Commission data access procedures and approval of the Executive Director of the WCPFC.</p>

<p>Item</p> <p><u>Equipment and Materials</u></p> <p>Equipment and materials is equipment and materials that an observer will require to safely carry out their roles and tasks on board a vessel.</p>	<p>Standard Required</p>
	<p>The standard for “Equipment and Materials” is that observers are provided with appropriate equipment, including safety equipment to carry out their roles and tasks on board a vessel. <i>IWGROP2/TCC4/WCPFC5</i></p>
	<p>ROP expectation on the equipment and Materials of Observers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equipment and Materials should be dependent of gear type. • Equipment should be dependent on climate area the vessel is fishing. • Safety equipment includes items, lifejackets, hard hats, proper deck working boots or shoes, gloves and protective sun glasses. • Observers should not board vessels until they have been fully kitted out • Equipment for work must be in a good working order and safety gear should have regular checks.

<p>Item</p> <p><u>Insurance and Liability</u></p> <p>Providers are to ensure that their observers have health, safety and liability insurance available to them before embarking on an observer trip.</p>	<p>Standard Required</p>
	<p>The standard for Insurance of Observers for ROP duties is that CCMs will use existing national standards for health and safety insurance. CCM providers of observers will make sure an observer placed on any vessel for ROP duties, has health and safety insurance. <i>IWGROP3/TCC5/WCPFC6</i></p>
	<p>ROP expectation on Insurance and Liability for observers</p> <p>The observer programme will have in place the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ A national health and safety standard and insurance available for all observers. ➤ A checking system ensuring that Observers are insured at all times during their employment should be in place. Includes insurance onboard a vessel, travel to and from the vessel, and other areas of observer employment i.e “waiting time” etc. ➤ Observers should have regular health checks to ensure they are fit to carry out work on a vessel that could be at sea for long periods.

Item	Standard Required
<p><u>Manuals & Work Books</u></p> <p>Manual is defined as a publication that serves to direct or indicate to an authorised observer by hard copy or electronic copy with information to assist with the roles and duties they are expected to carry out as an observer,</p> <p>Workbook is defined as a book pad or electronic tablet that contains data collection forms, instruction or formats that an observer will be required to complete while carrying out their duties.</p> <p>Manuals and Workbooks may be a series of guides or may be produced as one publication.</p>	<p>The standard agreed by the Commission for ROP “Observer Manual/ Guidelines/Work books will be:</p> <p>CCMs have and use their respective Observer Manual/Guidelines and submit copies of these to the Secretariat.</p> <p>Each CCM National Observer Programme and Sub-Regional Observer Programmes will provide copies of their respective Observer Workbooks to the Secretariat. <i>IWGROP2/TCC4/WCPFC5 & IWGROP3/TCC5/WCPFC6</i></p>
	<p>ROP expectation on the content of Manuals & Work books</p> <p>Observer Manuals and Work books may include a number of publications or formats that an observer will use for guidance when carrying out duties on an observer trip. Manuals will be relevant to, and will contain current requirements and information for the use by the observers of the national programme.</p> <p>Manuals may be inclusive or may be produced individually and should include, but is not limited to; observer operations guides, species ID guides, gear type & electronic guides, guides on reporting and handling species of special interest. Guidelines on collecting, security and handling of data collected by the observer including, photo, videos, digital images and any other form of data collection. General operational guides and data collection guide lines</p> <p>At least one manual/workbooks issued to an observer commencing a Regional Observer Programme (ROP) trip should contain annexes or sections on the requirements of the *Conservation Measures of the Commission (CMMs) and the details of the ROP.</p> <p>Copies of all national Manuals/Work books must be provided to the Secretariat of the WCPFC.</p> <p><i>*Note Handbook of CMMs for WCPFC ROP’s is available to all observers.</i></p>

Item	Standard Required
<p><u>Measuring Performance of Observers</u></p> <p>Measuring Performance of an observer” is a means to report on the performance of the observers with the programme.</p>	<p>The standard for “Measuring Performance” is a means to report on the performance of the observer programme and a means to report on the performance of individual observers as part of the annual reporting requirements established by the Commission. <i>IWGROP2/TCC4/WCPFC5</i></p>
	<p>ROP expectation on performance of observers</p>
	<p>Observers shall be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • trained and certified /authorised by their programmes; • trained to acceptable Commission standards; • expected, to collect quality data; • expected to make comprehensive and detailed written reports; • expected to show well-mannered behaviour on trips or when travelling to or from vessels; • clear of any criminal record; • able to travel through or to any country;

Item	Standard Required
<p><u>Observer Coverage</u></p> <p>Observer coverage for each gear type is determined by the Commission.</p>	<p>Purse-seine vessels fishing within the area bounded by 20⁰ N and 20⁰ S exclusively on the high seas, on the high seas and in waters under the jurisdiction of one or more coastal States, or vessels fishing in waters under the jurisdiction of two or more coastal States, shall carry effective 1 January 2010, an observer from the Commission’s Regional Observer Programme <i>WCPFC5 (CMM 2008-01)</i></p> <p>Observer coverage is 5% annually for long liners determined by Commission to be in place by June 2012. <i>WCPFC4(CMM 2007-01)</i></p> <p>For transshipments on the high seas 100% observer coverage with the observer deployed on the receiving vessel <i>WCPFC6 (*CMM 2009-06)</i></p>
	<p>ROP expectation on observer coverage</p>
	<p>Observer placements information by Commission authorised Regional Observer Programme ROP’s are to be conveyed to the Secretariat.</p> <p>Metrics for coverage for long liners includes, coverage; by trip; hook numbers; number of observer sea days; observed fishing days; observed sets. IWG4</p> <p><i>*CMM 2009-06 paragraph 13 (a) and (b) have indications on the coverage for different types of vessels, however carrier vessels over 33 metres and transshipping from long liners at sea; 100 % coverage is required on the receiving vessel,</i></p>

Item	Standard Required
<p><u>Observer Trainers</u></p> <p>“Observer Trainers” are person who have been authorized by the NOP to train observers on their behalf. Trainers may be internal to the programme or may be specialists brought in from other programmes or organisations.</p>	<p>The ROP standard agreed by the Commission for “Observer for observer Trainers will be:</p> <p>“CCMs will use existing national and sub-regional training standards. CCMs will develop trainer qualifications, available for review by the Secretariat.” <i>IWGROP3/TCC5/WCPFC6</i></p>
	<p>ROP expectation on the use of trainers</p>
	<p>The best training instructors are those who have</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an intimate knowledge of observer work, data collections and reporting • experienced conditions at sea as an observer, • a good understanding of the fishery and the management of that fishery, • to be able to communicate training messages in clear and straight forward manner. <p>Observer Trainers should have undergone a series of training programmes designed to educate persons in the training of observers. NOP/SOP Programme Coordinators should also take part in the training, in order to develop closer relationships with their potential observers.</p>

Item	Standard Required
<p><u>Observer Training</u></p> <p>ROP Training should include but not be limited to</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Fisheries management; 2. Understanding MCS; 3. WCPFC Convention and related CMMs; 4. Importance of observer programmes , understanding authority and responsibilities of observers, 5. Safety at sea – emergencies at sea, survival at sea 6. First Aid 7. Species identification, including target, non-target, protected species, etc. 8. Fishing vessel & Gear types 9. Vessel identification & Markings 10. Techniques of verification of catch logbooks 11. Techniques of estimating catch and species composition 12. Fish sampling, Measuring and Weighing techniques. 13. Preservation of samples for analysis; 14. Data collection codes and data collection formats 15. Use of digital recorders, electronic notebooks. 16. Knowledge of navigation including latitude/longitude; compasses; bearings;; chart work; plotting a position; 17. Electronic equipment & understanding their operation 18. The use of radios & communications devices 19. Verbal debriefing & Report Writing 20. Health at Sea issues 	<p>Standard for “Observer Training” is that training programmes should be linked to the Commission’s decisions in place, available for review and training programme materials provided to the Secretariat <i>IWGROP2/TCC4/WCPFC5</i></p> <p>ROP expectation on the Training of Observers:</p> <p>Without specially designed training, an observer programme will suffer from unprofessional behavior, poor data outputs, and lack of respect from the industry and other sections of the fisheries management authorities. Training must therefore be considered as a key element in the development of an observer programme.</p> <p>The qualifications and background of current or potential observers must be analyzed in relation to the objectives of the programme and any proposed programme structure.</p> <p><u>Instructors</u></p> <p>The best training instructors are those who have an intimate knowledge of observer work, have experienced conditions at sea, have a good understanding of the fishery, and can communicate training messages in clear and straight forward manner. NOP/SOP Programme coordinators should also take part in the training, in order to develop closer relationships with their potential observers.</p> <p><u>Venues</u></p> <p>Training should be conducted in suitable training facilities with appropriate equipment. Marine colleges are favorable venues for observer training but are not essential.</p> <p><u>Education/ Entrance</u></p> <p>Qualifications for entry to observer training may vary from programme to programme. Some may require a degree level applicant, others a high school level and others may be required to participate in an entrance exam before being accepted into an observer course. Regardless of the entrance criteria the output of the training is the important result.</p> <p><u>Certification</u></p> <p>Observers will be authorised by these training programmes and must reach a high level of competency. Observer will be required to be categorized as fully trained in one or all of the gear types below a) Purse seine b) Longline c) Pole and Lined) Other gear types Troll, Trawl, hand line etc</p>

Item	Standard Required
<p><u>Pre-notification Process</u></p> <p>The pre-notification process from observer providers to flag CCMs of possible alleged infringements by their vessels include data being provided to the coastal state when an alleged infringement takes place in a coastal state's waters.</p>	<p>That all ROP authorized observer programmes provide to the Commission Secretariat in a timely manner the ROP minimum data elements on the WCPFC Observer Trip Monitoring Summary, or which are included in SPC/FFA General Form 3 as a means of supporting a pre-notification process from observer providers to flag of possible alleged infringements by their vessels. <i>IWG4/TCC11/WCPFC12</i></p> <p>ROP Expectation on Prenotification</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To facilitate the pre-notification process it was recommended that only those data elements answered in the affirmative by observers would be provided to the Commission Secretariat for transmittal to the flag CCM and as appropriate the relevant coastal State for alleged infringements in their waters. 2. To support the pre-notification process, there are two additional fields that should be provided by observer providers to the Commission Secretariat to support a flag CCMs investigations of any possible alleged infringements. These are: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. “start date of trip and end date of trip” b. “status of the debriefing process” <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i.e, “debriefed”, “pre-debriefed” or “not debriefed” 3. The requirement of providing the pre-notification data elements to the Commission Secretariat may not be required where there are domestic requirements enabling access by vessel operators to observer data. <i>IWG4/TCC11/WCPFC12</i>
<p>(Attachment 7 to IWGROP4 Summary Report),</p> <p>The following procedure is provided as a guide for a proposed pre-notification process from observer providers to flag CCMs of possible alleged infringements by their vessels:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Observer, as part of their usual duties will complete the ROP minimum data elements on the WCPFC Observer Trip Monitoring Summary, or which are included in SPC/FFA General Form 3 (see example below), for each trip; b) Observer keeps this report/form (and all other data) confidential and returns to home port or disembarkation point; c) Observer fully disembarks the vessel;* d) Observer transmits their data and reports per their standard procedures to an authorized observer provider/person for their national or sub-regional observer programme; e) Observer arriving back from the vessel in observer’s home port, or if required, has to travel back to home country & awaits debriefing; f) Observer is debriefed as soon as is practicable after finishing the trip/trips*; <p><u>Pre-Notification Process</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> g) In the event that there is a “YES” noted in the WCPFC Observer Trip Monitoring Summary, or ROP minimum data elements which are included in SPC/FFA General Form 3 the observer provider is expected where practicable, to promptly submit the relevant data to the Commission Secretariat (the data may be provided through the Commission data service provider (SPC-OFP) or provided directly to the Secretariat). h) In considering the timeliness of the submission of the ROP minimum data elements on the WCPFC Observer Trip Monitoring Summary, or which are included in SPC/FFA General Form 3, the observer provider must ensure the observer is safely disembarked from the vessel and has returned to their home port, and where possible the observer has been fully debriefed. 	

- i) The observer provider may decide that further investigation of a “YES” noted in the WCPFC Observer Trip Monitoring Summary, or ROP minimum data elements which are included in SPC/FFA General Form 3 (or equivalent) is needed before the relevant data is submitted to the Commission Secretariat.
- j) If there is only “NO” noted in the WCPFC Observer Trip Monitoring Summary, or ROP minimum data elements which are included in SPC/FFA General Form 3 (or debriefing determines there to be only “NO” noted) the ROP data, including WCPFC Observer Trip Monitoring Summary, or ROP minimum data elements which are included in SPC/FFA General Form 3 would be submitted through usual processes to the Commission Secretariat.
- k) The Commission Secretariat will facilitate the provision of certain data fields in the relevant WCPFC Observer Trip Monitoring Summary, or ROP minimum data elements which are included in SPC/FFA General Form 3 and the additional supporting fields specified in IWG-ROP4 report para 28*** to the responsible flag CCM. In accordance with the data rules, the information that is provided to flag CCMs will exclude the name of the observer, their nationality and the observer trip ID, but will instead identify the observer provider programme that placed the observer.
- l) The authorised Flag state official contacts can request from the observer provider** further supporting details for their investigations. Vessel captain/owners/point of contact will communicate with flag State official contacts regarding any alleged infringements.
- m) The Commission Secretariat will facilitate the collation of communications related to the outcome of investigations of any “YES” noted in the WCPFC Observer Trip Monitoring Summary, or ROP minimum data elements which are included in SPC/FFA General Form 3, including from the flag CCMs.

*If an observers carries out one or more trips consecutively on the same vessel. That vessel cannot request through their official contacts a copy of the WCPFC Observer Trip Monitoring Summary, or ROP minimum data elements which are included in SPC/FFA General Form 3 compiled by that observer until the observer has completely finished all his trips on the vessel and has fully disembarked the vessel.

** Request could be sent via the Commission Secretariat or other sub regional organizations who would verify the persons making the request are genuine official contacts and could act as intermediators between the flag State and the provider if they so wish.

*** as per the ROP Expectations para 2 above;

Item _	Standard Required
<p><u>Sea Safety</u></p> <p>Sea Safety involves the training of sea safety procedure observer receive before they are permitted to carry out duties on board a vessel at sea.</p>	<p>The standard for “Sea - Safety” is that all ROP observers must undergo training in sea safety and emergency procedures to an international standard and that such training procedures be made available to the Secretariat. <i>IWGR0P2/TCC4/WCPFC5</i></p> <p>ROP expectation on Sea Safety</p> <p>All observers are trained to an international standard on Safety at Sea by a certified person, school, college or maritime authority.</p> <p>Sea safety training should include instructions in the use of life rafts, life vests, first aid, fire extinguishers, rescue protocols and communications and other essential elements of safety.</p> <p>Observers should be made aware that they have the right to refuse to board a particular vessel if they consider it to be un-safe.</p> <p>A vessel safety certificate or form should be filled out by the provider/observer or by the person placing the observer to ensure all equipment is in survey, and there is adequate safety equipment to cater for the extra observer on board.</p>

<u>Item</u>	Commission Requirements
<p><u>Observer Safety at Sea and Emergency Action Plan (EAP)</u></p> <p>As part of responsibility of running and maintaining a ROP authorised national and sub regional observers programme; employers/providers must support observers in their ability to carry out their duties unimpeded and in a safe working environment.</p> <p>To ensure that independent communications is available to an Observer; a “Two Way Communication Device” must be issued to all ROP observers on all trips.</p> <p>Observer safety is an issue of the highest and utmost importance and there must be a process in place (Emergency Action Plan (EAP) to handle reports that an observer may make on issue of safety including instances of harassment, intimidation, or assault.</p> <p>Note that the full implementation of this standard was required by Jan 1st 2017</p>	<p>To assist observers with Safety at Sea the following has been made mandatory from Jan 1st 2017.</p> <p>1. Each ROP authorised observer programme shall ensure that observers from their programme will be provided before any boarding for a trip,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An approved independent two way communication satellite device*; and • a waterproof personal lifesaving beacon. <p><i>*Noting that this may consist of a single device such as “Satellite Emergency Notification Device” or it may be a combination of an independent satellite-based system such as a Sat phone plus a portable lifesaving beacon (PLB).”</i></p> <p>2. Each CCM with an ROP authorised observer programme will ensure that they have an “Emergency Action Plan” (EAP) in place to accommodate any reported observer emergency including interference, harassment, intimidation and other personal safety issues. TCC11/WCPFC12</p> <p>ROP expectation for Observer Providers</p> <p>The Commission relies heavily on the scientific and monitoring data collected by observers in order to meet its objectives and observers must be able to do their jobs unimpeded and in a safe working environment, free from interference, harassment, intimidation, and assault. Each ROP authorised observer programme shall ensure that observers from their programme will be provided before a boarding for all trips, an independent two way communication satellite device and an approved personal lifesaving beacon; noting that both requirements may be combined in one instrument.</p> <p>There shall also be established in each programme a 24 hr emergency contact for the observer. The 24hr service need not be in the “Fisheries Departments” and other services like police, patrol boat bases maybe utilised. A set of procedures for an Emergency Action Plan (EAP) must be explained and fully understood before an observer departs on their trip. The EAP must include communications protocol and appropriate contact information in an emergency and as a minimum will include.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When to report: (Generally, observers should be required to report any instance of interference, harassment, intimidation, or assault as outlined in ROP training.) • Who to report to: (Observer programmes must have a “Designated Officer/s” who are responsible for maintaining a device capable of receiving a signal from the approved independent two-way satellite communication device.) • Follow up responses: (Observer programme must have an established procedure to initiate contact with the observer, the vessel, and, if necessary, the appropriate enforcement authority of Flag CCM’s and relevant Coastal CCM’s; this procedure must also include clear procedures that must be taken in the event of various emergencies.) • Remedial action: (Observer programme must establish appropriate measures for addressing violations made against observers.) • Completing the EAP protocols for observer related incident involving observer reporting of Interference Harassment, Intimidation must be resolved through a legal or nationally recognized procedure. <p>TCC11/WCPFC12</p>

Item	Standard Required
<p><u>Vessel Safety Check list</u></p> <p>(VSC) format</p> <p>VSC format should be designed to evaluate the Safety of the vessel before an observer makes a boarding.</p> <p>The Commission has a guideline format on the ROP section of the WCPFC Website and national formats should be similar or the same.</p>	<p>The minimum standard for a Vessel Safety Checklist (VSC) will be that a CCM should have a VSC in place, and to be used prior to an observer boarding a vessel; and if not in place, CCMs may use, as a *guideline, the VSC developed by the Commission. CCM's should submit copies of their VSC to the WCPFC Secretariat. <i>IWGROP3/TCC5/WCPFC6</i></p> <p>ROP expectation on Vessel Safety</p> <p>All programmes will have a vessel safety format that can be used to determine if a vessel is safe for an observer to board.</p> <p>If not using the Commission VSC format, observer programmes should submit copies of their VSC to the Secretariat.</p> <p>A VSC will apply before each boarding of an observer on a vessel.</p> <p>Observer has the right to refuse the boarding if the VSC highlights that the vessel does not comply with expected standards</p> <p><i>* Copy of the guidelines is attached to the end of this document</i></p>

Agreed Guidelines of the Regional Observer Programme

The agreed “Guidelines” for the ROP were mainly generated and discussed during different workshops; Guidelines for some ROP areas were decided, so as programmes still developing in these areas have a guide on the suggested way forward.

These are guidelines and are not binding and are only suggested guidelines for CCM’s or ROP’s to use as a guide to help when developing their programmes or dealing with issues in their programmes.

Observer Identification Cards Guidelines

The current agreed guidelines for the ROP of the Commission are below, it is agreed that all observers should have proper observer identification; as some programmes already have ID for their observers, and they are not exactly the same; no fixed standard was determined. However it was agreed that the following guidelines should be considered when producing Observer Identification for ROP observer.

Noting that the Secretariat should provide assistance to those national observer programmes authorised to be part of the ROP, which need assistance in developing and obtaining observer ID cards for their observers.

Item _____	Standard Requirement
<p><u>Observer Identification Cards</u></p> <p>The currently agreed WCPFC Guidelines for Observer Identification Cards should continue as guidelines in the ROP <i>IWGROP4/WCPFC12</i></p>	Observer ID card should be required for participant programmes in the Regional Observer Programme;
	WCPFC Guidelines For Observer Identification Cards
	<p>Suggested minimum required information on the front of each card:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Name of the observer 2) Name of the observer provider 3) Nationality of the observer 4) Unique identifying number for the observer 5) Passport style photo of the observer
	<p>Information that could be placed on either the front or back of the card:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6) Issue date and Expiry date 7) WCPFC logo to indicate observer is ROP observer 8) Logo of Programme and or Country Flag <p>Optional information that could be included on the back of the card:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 9) Signature of Observer; 10) Status of observer Qualifications.



**WESTERN CENTRAL PACIFIC FISHERIES COMMISSION
REGIONAL OBSERVER PROGRAMME
VESSEL SAFETY CHECK**

VESSEL INFORMATION													
TYPE OF VESSEL	PS LL P&L OTHER												
NAME OF VESSEL	<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th colspan="2" style="text-align: left;">Vessel Size (Length)</th> </tr> <tr> <td style="width: 80%; text-align: left;">< 16 metres</td> <td style="width: 20%; text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: left;">16-25 metres</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: left;">26 -39 metres</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: left;">40-65 metres</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: left;">> 65 metres</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </table>	Vessel Size (Length)		< 16 metres	<input type="checkbox"/>	16-25 metres	<input type="checkbox"/>	26 -39 metres	<input type="checkbox"/>	40-65 metres	<input type="checkbox"/>	> 65 metres	<input type="checkbox"/>
Vessel Size (Length)													
< 16 metres		<input type="checkbox"/>											
16-25 metres		<input type="checkbox"/>											
26 -39 metres		<input type="checkbox"/>											
40-65 metres		<input type="checkbox"/>											
> 65 metres		<input type="checkbox"/>											
FLAG STATE													
VESSEL WCPFC WIN NUMBER													
REGISTRATION NUMBER													
CALL SIGN													
OWNER/OPERATOR													
MASTER /CAPTAIN													

VESSEL SAFETY CHECK (VSC)

ITEMS TO BE CHECKED	YES	NO	N/A	COMMENTS
1. VESSEL MARKINGS TO WCPFC STANDARDS CMM 2004-03				
2. REGISTRATION DOCUMENTATION IN ORDER				
3. *VESSEL SURVEY DOCUMENTATION CURRENT				
4. *MARINE RADIO HF SSB OR SUBSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS				
5. *MOUNTED FIRE EXTINGUISHERS (CURRENT CHECKED)				
6. *FIRE FIGHTING EQUIPMENT (IN GOOD ORDER)				
7. *NAVIGATION LIGHTS / VESSEL LIGHTS (WORKING ORDER)				
8. *SOUND PRODUCING DEVICES OR BELL				
9. *DISTRESS SIGNALS AND FLARES				
10. *CORRECT SIZE PERSONAL FLOATATION DEVICES AVAILABLE				
11. * APPROVED LIFE RAFT OR LIFE BOATS UNDER CURRENT SURVEY AND ADEQUATE FOR NUMBER OF CREW & OBSERVER				
12. OTHER WORK RELATED VESSELS ON BOARD THAT COULD BE UTILISED IN CASE OF EMERGENCY				
13. *EPIRBs (CURRENT SURVEY)				
14. * NAUTICAL CHARTS AND NAVIGATION AIDS (GPS/RADAR)				
15. *FIRST AID EQUIPMENT				
16. *SANITATION				
17. PHONE				
18. EMAIL/FAX				
19. * INSURANCE FOR OBSERVER WHILST ON BOARD				

VESSEL AT THE TIME OF CHECKING IS CONSIDERED TO BE UNSAFE FOR AN OBSERVER BOARDING

VESSEL AT THE TIME OF CHECKING MEETS THE REQUIREMENTS OF SAFETY FOR AN OBSERVER BOARDING

NAME OF CHECKER _____ POSITION _____

SIGNED _____ DATE _____

NOTE The Vessel Safety check (VSC) carried out by the ‘Checker’ does not constitute or should be construed as a warranty or guarantee of the seaworthiness of the vessel, or the serviceability or adequacy of equipment on board. There is no assumption of liability of any kind for advice given and opinions expressed in connection to this VSC examination.

EXPLANATION ON VSC REQUIREMENTS

1. VESSEL MARKINGS TO WCPFC CMM 2004-STANDARDS WCPFC markings are the same as FAO standards except that the WCPFC CMM 2004-03 will allow all letters of the alphabet to be used in the callsign.
2. REGISTRATION DOCUMENTATION IN ORDER Flag State Registration documentation papers must be on board and available to be viewed and must show registration number, boats name, country and port of registration.
3. VESSEL SURVEY DOCUMENTATION CURRENT Fishing Vessels and support vessels operating in the WCPFC must comply with their Flag State regulations and Code of Practice for Safety. Ship surveys including condition, safety and security aspects of hull, machinery and on board safety equipment must be available to be viewed.
4. MARINE RADIO HF SSB(WORKING ORDER) Marine SSB (Single Side Band) is a means of communications for many fishing vessels. The radio must be capable of transmitting and receiving frequencies used for emergency marine communications as agreed by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) or by the Flag State of the vessel.
5. MOUNTED FIRE EXTINGUISHER, Fire extinguishers must be readily available and be of the correct type. Portable extinguishers require periodic maintenance therefore the last inspection date when last tested or refilled should be available. All must be currently serviceable and if possible should be checked to ensure extinguishes have not been fully or partially discharged.
6. FIRE FIGHTING EQUIPMENT Fire fighting must be readily available and be currently serviceable, a minimum standard of fire fighting equipment as designated by the flag state must be on all on all fishing vessels.
7. NAVIGATION LIGHTS AND VESSEL LIGHTS Vessels must be able to display international standard navigation lights between sunset and sunrise and in conditions of reduced visibility. Internal and external vessel lighting must be fully operational. In the case of power failure, battery operated safety lights must be appropriately placed to ensure a safe exit from the vessel.
8. SOUND PRODUCING SIGNALS OR BELLS Vessels must carry a sound producing device (whistle, horn, siren. or bell) capable of a prolonged blast or ringing for distress signaling purposes
9. DISTRESS SIGNAL AND FLARES. Vessels should have on board appropriate pyrotechnics devices that will suitably operate in both day and night emergency situations.
10. CORRECT SIZE PERSONAL FLOATATION DEVICE AVAILABLE Life Jackets must be approved types and in good serviceable condition, Life Jackets of suitable sizes must be readily accessible for the observer and all crew. Life jackets will not be stored away or locked in cupboards or rooms.
11. SOLAS APPROVED LIFE RAFT In addition to meeting the requirements of the (IMO) International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (Solus) life rafts must be currently in survey and be adequate to carry the amount of crew including the observer on board the vessel.
12. OTHER WORK RELATED VESSELS Many vessels have auxiliary vessels that can be used in emergency situations. Note these.
13. EPIRBs International Standard 406 MHz EPIRB. The signal frequency (406 MHz) has been designated internationally for use only for distress. Check to see the frequency number and position of these EPIRBs, a few vessels may have the older relatively common type of 121.5/243 MHz emergency beacons, these will be obsolete in late 2008.
14. NAUTICAL CHARTS AND NAVIGATION AIDS Vessel must have a set of appropriate, up to date nautical charts. Check to ensure that the Radar, GPS and any other navigational equipment is in good order and functioning.
15. FIRST AID EQUIPMENT The vessel must have adequate first aid facilities with current "use by dates" on all apparatus, drugs, dressings and other first aid paraphernalia.
16. SANITATION The vessel must have adequate clean, well maintained sanitation and bathing facilities.
17. PHONE EMAIL/FAX If the vessel has a Phone Fax or Email system note the numbers for future reference or emergencies.
18. INSURANCE All vessels must have insurance for the Observer when the observer is on board, often the observer is covered by adding him/her to the crew list, ask to see what insurance the vessel has and ensure adding the observer to the policy is permitted

The explanations in the Vessel Safety check are by no means exhaustive. Checkers should ensure that other aspects of the vessel are considered before an observer is placed aboard, e.g. Accommodation, Fishing strategy, Vessel Size, etc. If vessels are unable to supply some items listed e.g. Fax Phone, etc, it does not mean an observer cannot be placed. The ultimate boarding is in the hands of the observer, however items marked with an asterisk on the form must be adequate

Guidelines on suggested mechanisms to prevent Alcohol related misconduct of observers;

Following a small number of complaints by vessels operators, observer providers and others; the following guidelines were compiled from different regional observer programme responses on the misconduct of observers due to alcohol consumption. The compilation of suggested mechanisms with possible results and possible solutions were presented at the IWGROP4 and then were agreed at WCPFC12 to be used as a guide for programmes, there are a number of scenarios that were proposed in the tables and ROP’s are encouraged to consider some of the mechanisms that suite their programme.

Item	Standard Required
<p>Preventing And Detering Misconduct Of Observers</p> <p>Guidelines on Suggested Mechanisms to Prevent and Deter Alcohol-Related Misconduct of Observers –</p>	<p>Agreed that it would be a helpful procedure to ensure that an individual vessels policy on alcohol consumption during a trip was clarified at the time of observer placement.</p> <p>Vessel operators that make alcohol directly or indirectly available to observers have a duty to avoid acts or omissions that reasonably may be foreseen as likely to cause harm to the observer or another person on the vessel.</p> <p>Recognise there may be merit in observer programmes considering a form that provides a mechanism for vessels to report back to the observer programme on the behaviour of an observer following the end of a trip <i>IWGROP4/WCPFC12(para 579 & attachment 4)/WCPFC15</i></p>
<p>ROP Expectation - Suggested Mechanisms to Prevent and Deter Alcohol-Related Misconduct of Observers –</p>	

Suggested Mechanism	Possible result	Suggested Standards of the Commission to be applied
<p>Training</p>		
<p>1</p>	<p>Continually and forcefully emphasize observer Professionalism and pride early and often during training, clearly indicating that an observer is “on the clock” for the entirety of their observer contract and assignment.</p>	<p>This sets the frame for future observer behavior and could help self-select for observers less likely to engage in misconduct.</p>
<p>2</p>	<p>Clearly and explicitly explain the rules, regulations, and Code of Conduct for observers related to misconduct, especially the consequences for violations, at several stages in training.</p>	<p>This should help improve the awareness of potential consequences and help deter some observers from engaging in misconduct.</p>
<p>Observer Training must contain an effective emphasis on the Code of Conduct including a strong emphasis of penalties in relation to drunkenness and other code infringements.</p>	<p>Observer Training must contain an effective emphasis on the Code of Conduct including a strong emphasis of penalties in relation to drunkenness and other infringements.</p>	

3	<p>Clearly and explicitly explain the rules and procedures for documenting potential misconduct violations. There should be a requirement of proof of misconduct which should place the burden on the vessel or vessel agent to provide an affidavit documenting the specifics of the observer misconduct, an opportunity for the observer to provide a response, and a written report summarizing the findings as well as an opportunity for both parties to comment in writing on the report.</p>	<p>This would ensure that the observer understands their rights and what steps they would take should they be accused of misconduct. Providing this information offers an additional incentive to behave while also informing the observer of their right to an unbiased investigation of the accusation.</p>	<p>Observer Training must contain a section on the rights and role of an observer in relations to any accusations made against him or her.</p> <p>Collecting of written affidavits plus substantiated evidence is required before any further undertaking can be made against the accused observer, hearsay and verbal complaints are not sufficient for remedial action or dismissal.</p>
4	<p>Clearly and explicitly explain the penalties schedule for violations, e.g. Arrest for alcohol related assault results in termination. The penalties schedule should include all scenarios, such as, if an observer is found guilty of misconduct that does not rise to the level of termination, the observer provider should provide a progressive performance evaluation that allows an observer to improve, with clear expectations in writing, including, where available, options for counseling and alcohol treatment and recovery programs.</p>	<p>This gives observers a clear understanding of what is at stake if they engage in misconduct and provides an additional deterrent effect, while also indicating to the observer their options for seeking treatment for <u>alcohol problems</u>.</p>	<p>An observer charged with a Code of Conduct infringement must be given every opportunity to defend him/herself against the claims that they have alleged to have committed.</p> <p>Drunkenness can be a problem for some who are normally good workers, all avenues of assistance should be made available to the observer.</p>
5	<p>“3 strikes and you’re out rule” - Clearly and explicitly explain the penalties schedule for violations. If an observer is found guilty of misconduct that does not rise to the level of termination, then the observer should be informed and warned that they are on a “3 strike and you are out rule”. This allows an observer to improve, knowing that if they fail to do so; they will face termination from their observer role.</p>	<p>This gives observers a clear understanding of what is at stake if they engage in continual misconduct and provides an additional deterrent effect.</p>	<p>Observers who have problems with Misconduct /drunkenness that is not considered a major event should be given a chance to redeem themselves.</p> <p>A standard for action for persons that continually offend should be put in place. The “3 strikes and you are out rule” could be applied for minor offences of drunkenness and other infringements.</p>

Assignment			
6	Intervention at the point of assignment where the observer must read aloud the Code of Conduct before the observer provider and initial or otherwise acknowledge provisions specific to alcohol related misconduct.	This will work if the observer commits themselves to not drink alcohol <u>to the point where Code of Conduct infractions occur</u> during his/her stay in the port.	On arriving at a port or on a vessel, observers are given relevant sections to read and note on the Code of Conduct. This is a reminder what lays ahead of them if they infringe with misconduct and or drunkenness.
7	Intervention at the point of disembarking where someone explains the rules and consequences on what will happen if an observer drinks too much.	This will work if the observer commits themselves to not drink alcohol <u>to the point where Code of Conduct infractions occur</u> during his/her stay in the port.	On arriving at a port or on a vessel, observers are given copy of the Code of Conduct and solid verbal explanations' on the relevant sections on the Code of Conduct. With emphasis on the local penalties and consequences if the observer breaches the Code of Conduct.
8	Prohibition on the consumption of alcohol by observers during the term of their trip and return to home country.	Observer will not be permitted to drink any alcohol during their trip and return home subject to sanction. Dismissal as the penalty, regardless of how much is consumed will most likely deter some observers. <u>This is a rigid standard but prone to equitable enforcement.</u>	All Observers are usually considered to be on contract from the start of their trip from their home base until they return to their home base; therefore they should not be permitted to indulge in the consumption of alcohol for the period of their contract.
9	Requirement to remain on board the assigned vessel when in port and only disembark that vessel when the first flight out of the country to the observers homeport after completion of first trip comes available	Cost implications as there would be no second trips, unless observers were not permitted trip and could only leave when departure for home country is organised.to leave the vessel after the first	Observers must stay on board vessels until the point of departure from the port to their home country occurs; also observers must stay on board in the port if they are asked to carry out a second trip on the vessel they are on board.
10	All accommodation etc is organised with meals No alcohol permitted) and paid for by provider if observer lands in foreign port	Observer's accommodation and food (no alcohol permitted) is paid by provider to a set limit, - Small allowance to cover costs if observer has to travel or is going back for 2 nd trip.	Observer's accommodation and food is pre-organised and paid by provider. When an observer lands in a foreign port. This includes banning the sale of alcohol to the observer as part of the costs.

Template for CMM 2009-06 paragraph 11 reporting

Transshipment information to be provided annually by CCMs as required by CMM 2009-06 paragraph 11 in accordance with the guidelines in Annex II of the measure.

Each CCM shall include in Part 1 of its Annual Report to the Commission:

(1) the **total quantities, by weight**, of highly migratory fish stocks covered by this measure that were transhipped by fishing vessels the CCM is responsible for reporting against, with those quantities broken down by:

a) offloaded and received;	b) transhipped in port, transhipped at sea in areas of national jurisdiction, and transhipped beyond areas of national jurisdiction	c) transhipped inside the Convention Area and transhipped outside the Convention Area;	d) caught inside the Convention Area and caught outside the Convention Area;	e) Species	f) Product Form	g) Fishing gear
offloaded						
received						

(2) the **number of transhipments** involving highly migratory fish stocks covered by this measure by fishing vessels that is responsible for reporting against, broken down by:

a) offloaded and received	b) transhipped in port, transhipped at sea in areas of national jurisdiction, and transhipped beyond areas of national jurisdiction	c) transhipped inside the Convention Area and transhipped outside the Convention Area	d) caught inside the Convention Area and caught outside the Convention Area	e) fishing gear
offloaded				
received				



Commission VMS Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)

Version notes

Version	WCPFC decision reference	Description of updates	Effective date
1.0	<i>WCPFC6</i>	<i>Approved by the Commission of the SOP, as per requirement of VMS SSPs section 6.9</i>	<i>Feb 19 2010</i>
2.0	<i>WCPFC15</i>	<i>Updates made to include versioning and to streamline and improve the focus of the SOPs and better reflect current Secretariat practices including reference to the present VMS service provider/s</i>	<i>Feb 13 2019</i>

2. Overview

The WCPFC operates a Vessel Monitoring System (Commission VMS) to assist in the management and conservation of highly migratory fish stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean.

In December 2008, a Service Level Agreement (SLA) with FFA for the provision of the WCPFC VMS services was formalised. The contracted system that provides VMS information to the FFA VMS and the WCPFC VMS systems is referred to as the “Pacific VMS”. The WCPFC VMS came into operation on April 1, 2009.

The approved structure of the WCPFC VMS system allows vessels to report to the WCPFC through two ways: i) directly to the WCPFC VMS, or ii) to the WCPFC through the FFA VMS. In respect of the latter, it is recognized that there may be additional requirements for VMS reporting which arise from FFA requirements and national VMS requirements that are relevant.

The WCPFC has more than 3,000 WCPFC-registered vessels that report to the WCPFC VMS through the Pacific VMS. In addition the WCPFC VMS receives, through the SLA with FFA, high seas VMS information relating to FFA-registered vessels.

The Commission VMS requires the use of Mobile Transceiver Units (MTUs)/Automatic Location Communicators (ALCs) that are on the approved list of MTU/ALC as approved by the Commission. Approval of ALCs will be based on the Secretariat's assessments of ALCs against minimum standards for the Commission VMS as set out in Annex 1 of CMM 2014-02 (or its successor measure), WCPFC SSPs, as relevant, by determining that the ALC make and model has the ability to successfully report to the Commission VMS,

2.1 Purpose of these Standard Operating Procedures

These standard operating procedures (SOPs) have been developed to provide uniform guidance for Commission personnel in the management and operation of the Commission VMS.

2.2 Specific Commission Decisions and Guidelines governing the Commission VMS and access to VMS data

- a) Rules and Procedures for the Protection, Access to, and Dissemination of Data Compiled by the Commission (2007 data RaP) – December 2007;
- b) Service Level Agreement (SLA) with FFA for the provision of the WCPFC VMS services – December 2008 (WCPFC VMS came into operation on April 1, 2009)
- c) Rules and Procedures for the Protection, Access to, and Dissemination of High Seas Non-Public Domain Data and Information Compiled by the Commission for the Purpose of Monitoring, Control or Surveillance (MCS) Activities and the Access to and Dissemination of High Seas VMS Data for Scientific Purposes. (2009 MCS data RaP) – December 2009.
- d) WCPFC Standards Specifications and procedures (SSPs) for the fishing vessel monitoring system (VMS) of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) – December 2016 (or its update)
- e) WCPFC Agreed Statement describing Purpose and Principles of the WCPFC VMS – December 2011
- f) WCPFC9 decision regarding application of Commission VMS to national waters of Members (WCPFC9 Summary Report paragraph 238) – December 2012
- g) Conservation and Management Measure for the Commission VMS – CMM 2014-02 (or its replacement CMM) – December 2014
- h) WCPFC VMS Reporting Requirement Guidelines – May 2018 (or its update)

2.3 General Information Security Policy and Administrative Procedures for the Secretariat

The Secretariat's WCPFC Information Security Policies and Guidelines, as well as Administrative Procedures apply to the administration and access to the Commission VMS.

3. VMS Software Applications

3.1 Trackwell

The Trackwell VMS user interface is implemented as a suite of web modules contained within a common frame application. These modules are selectable from the main menu. More than one module can be open at the same time, in separate browser tabs on separate screens. The VMS Web application is AJAX driven, giving the user similar usage experience and behavior as a classic windows application. It is designed in a modular way, allowing different modules to be active / visible for different users.

The main modules of the are:

- Monitoring - operators main view
- Vessel – vessel registry database
- Events and Actions – users can define events to be monitored
- Reports – provide list of pre-programmed reports
- Live Map – geographical map displaying vessel’s position in near real-time

3.2 Manual Reporting

Vessels typically report their positions automatically. The Commission VMS does not presently have a capability to upload manual positions (eg in the case of MTU/ALC failure) into the Trackwell VMS user interface.

3.3 Monitoring View

The Monitoring View is the operators main view. All important events and alerts handled by the system are listed as issues from which an operator can select an “Issue” to work on or log down every actions related to the selected issue until its closed. Issues can also be configured to trigger an alert.

4. Operational Procedures

4.1 VMS Client User Access

The VMS Manager can provide user access to the Commission VMS to an individual user on request from an authorised CCM official, such access will be granted after consultation with the Compliance Manager

The Commission VMS is configured so that each user has a unique login ID and password which can be changed at the discretion of the user. The system forces a change of password at intervals not exceeding 40 days. A password must consist of at least eight alpha-numeric characters and must be different from previous passwords and ID. Each user is responsible for their respective ID and password. Users can also use ‘Forgotten Password’ feature to change/reset passwords as required. If a user believes access has been gained through illegal use of his/her password or the user has forgotten his/her password, the VMS Manager must be notified immediately.

4.2 Vessel Tracking Data to be submitted by CCMs (VTAF)

The flag CCM is to submit all necessary data to complete its data file in the Commission’s VMS database, in respect of all vessels authorized to operate in the WCPFC Convention area. This data will include the name of the vessel, unique vessel identification number (UVI) [* if and when adopted by the Commission],

radio call sign, length, gross registered tonnage, power of engine expressed in kilowatts/horsepower, types of fishing gear(s) used as well as the make, model, unique network identifier (user ID) and equipment identifier (manufacturer's serial number) of the ALC that vessel will be using to fulfil its Commission VMS reporting requirements.

To facilitate the submission of necessary vessel tracking data for each fishing vessel required to report to the WCPFC VMS, the Secretariat has provided a guideline Vessel Tracking Agreement Form (VTAF) to enable activation and automatic tracking of the vessel through WCPFC VMS. VTAFs of vessels already reporting to FFA VMS will not be activated and may not need to be provided, but if submitted can be filed in case the vessel needs to have the ALC activated to report to WCPFC VMS system (should the vessel no longer report to the FFA VMS system).

A copy of the guideline VTAF form is appended at **Annex A**.

The following procedures are to be followed by the Secretariat when updated or new VTAF data is received from a CCM (as per the flow chart below).

1. Secretariat to acknowledge receipt of the VTAF by e-mail to the CCM official who sent it.
2. Secretariat to check that the VTAF data is completed correctly. An incomplete VTAF data should be referred back to the CCM official who sent it.
3. Secretariat to check that the MTU/ALC described in the VTAF is type approved by the CCM. If not, advise the CCM official accordingly.
4. If the MTU is type approved by the CCM then check against the FFA Vessel Register to determine if the vessel is listed. If it is listed then no further action required. The vessel will be monitored when it enters waters of the WCPFC Convention Area covered by the WCPFC VMS.
5. If the vessel is not listed on the FFA Vessel Register then its MTU/ALC must be activated to report directly to the Commission VMS (see Section 4.3 below).

4.3 MTU/ALC Activation procedure for WCPFC VMS

Vessels not registered on the FFA Register of Fishing vessels will be activated to report directly to WCPFC VMS once a VTAF or information required under Paragraph 2.9 of the Commission VMS SSPs is provided in full.

WCPFC VMS has gateways for the following services:

- Argos
- Faria
- Halios – CLS MTUs using the Iridium service
- Inmarsat C
- SkyMate

The following procedures are to be followed by the Secretariat when complete VTAF data is received and for vessels not registered on the FFA Register of Fishing vessels (as per the flow chart below).

1. Secretariat to enter VTAF data as a new record in MTU Update request.

MTU Update Request - New Item



EDIT PAGE

Save Cancel Paste Copy Attach File Spelling

Commit Clipboard Actions Spelling

Save Cancel

Submitted By *

Received Date *

Vessel *

MTU Details

Approved MTU Type *

Equipment ID *
Manufacturer's serial number for this MTU

Network ID
Unique ID Number by which MTU is tracked on the satellite network

Save Cancel

2. Secretariat to follow activation procedure that is specific to the gateway for the MTU/ALC (see below). The following details must be provided for all activation requests
 1. Vessel Name
 2. Reg No
 3. IRCS
 4. Vessel Type
 5. Flag
 6. Approved MTU Type
 7. Equipment ID
 8. Network ID
3. If activation was successful, Secretariat to advise CCM that the vessel has been activated to report. The Secretariat to complete internal procedure so that MTU update request form is completed to show "MTU Update Request Completed OK", this provides advice to Trackwell VMS system that the vessel MTU details have been confirmed and are activated to report to WCPFC VMS.
4. If activation was not successful, request the CCM official to check the vessel's MTU/ALC, rectify any anomalies with the MTU/ALC and inform the WCPFC Secretariat of when the vessel is ready for activation.
5. On receipt of the advice by the CCM that the MTU/ALC is ready for a second attempt of activation, activate the vessel on the system again.
6. If the MTU/ALC activation fails on the second attempt, notify the CCM and draw to the flag CCMs attention that vessel position reports shall be provided by the vessel on a manual basis, as required

by the WCPFC Standards Specifications and procedures (SSPs) for the fishing vessel monitoring system (VMS) of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) – December 2016 (or its update).

Vessel activation procedure for Argos and Halios MTUs

List of vessel MTU/ALCs to be activated must be sent to “Fisheries Support” (fisheries.support@cls.fr).

Fisheries Support will then advise the Secretariat if activation is successful or not. The outcome should be advised to the CCM contact.

Vessel activation procedure for Faria and Skymate

For Faria MTUs, the vessel’s details as above is send to SpeedCast (support.mss.apac@speedcast.com) and request upon activation to provide Faria 4 digit unique MTU Id.

For skymate MTUs, the vessel’s details as above is send Skymate (williamricaurte@navcast.com)

The contact for each gateway will advise the Secretariat if activation is successful or not. The outcome should be advised to the CCM contact.

Vessel activation procedure for Inmarsat C MTUs

For Inmarsat C MTUs activation is done at the Secretariat using a web application developed by SpeedCast

Western & Central Pacific Fisheries Commission

Please select DNID Options

Command Type
[Dropdown]

Ocean Region [Dropdown] Data Network ID [Dropdown]

IMN Number [Text] Member Number [Text]

UTC Time (24hr) [Dropdown] [Dropdown] Reports per 24 hours [Text]

Sub Address [Dropdown] Acknowledgement [Dropdown]

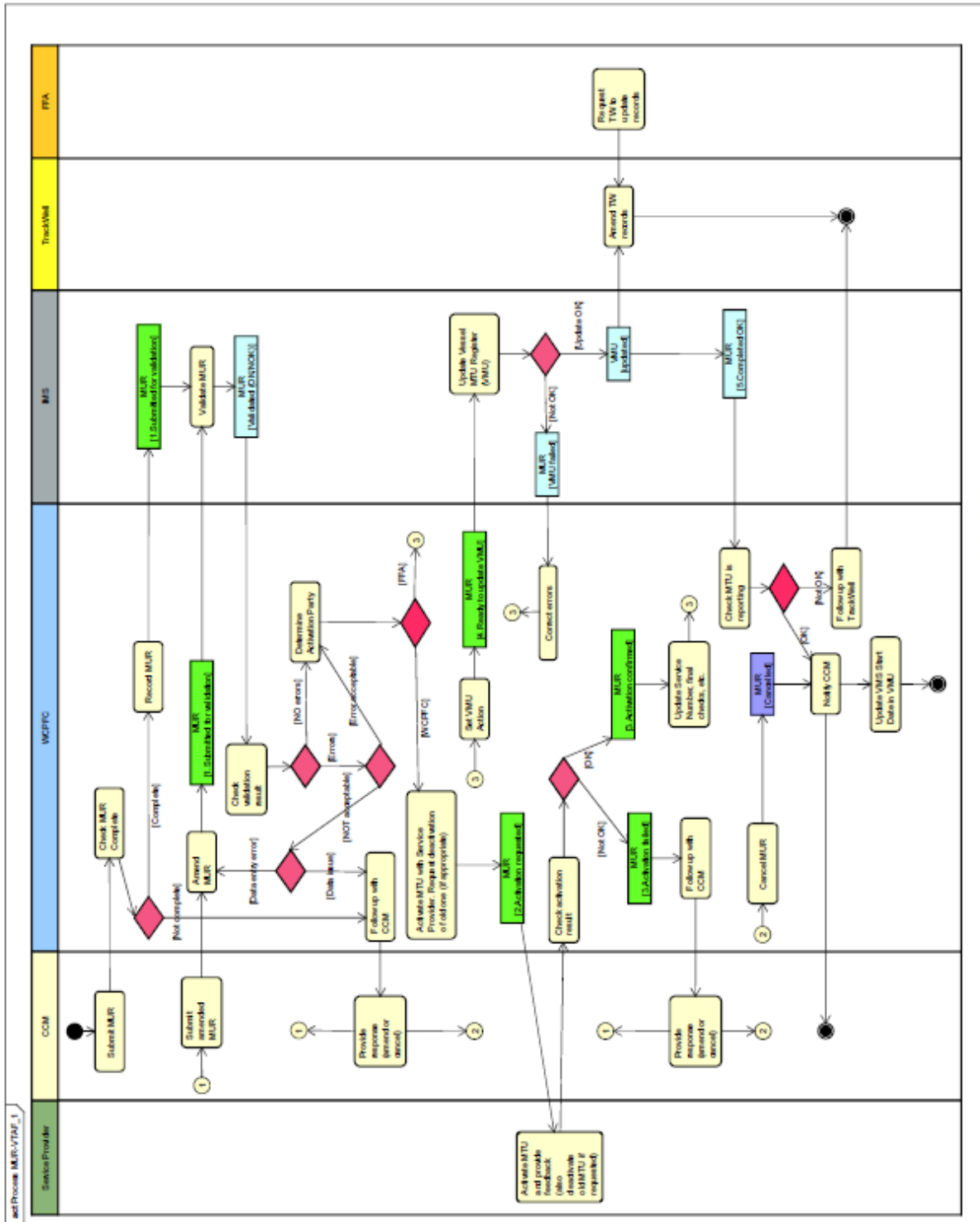
Telnet

TCLNET:

SpeedCast
Wherever You Are
© SpeedCast Australia 2015

If activation was not successful then advise CCM Official of why the activation was unsuccessful, this may include:

- Unknown mobile number
- Mobile logged out
- Mobile is not in the Ocean Region
- DNID sent to vessel, but vessel did not send acknowledgement to Commission VMS;
- Program sent to vessel but vessel did not send acknowledgement to Commission VMS; or
- Start Command sent to vessel but vessel did but send acknowledgement to Commission VMS.



2016/11/04 14:01:11

4.4 Manual Reporting







Since 1 March 2013, the Commission has agreed to regular extensions of amendments to the SSPs related to the reporting timeframes for manual reporting in the event of ALC malfunction. A standard reporting format for these manual reports has been previously agreed as is required by the WCPFC Standards Specifications and procedures (SSPs) for the fishing vessel monitoring system (VMS) of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) – December 2016 (or its update).

Manual should be sent to email: VMSManualReports@wcpfc.int

The first manual report received from a vessel will be recorded in the WCPFC Intranet – VMS Manual Report. This record will remain open until to vessel resumes normal VMS reporting.


VMS Manual Reporting - New Item ×


EDIT


 Save <small>Commit</small>	 Cancel	 Paste <small>Clipboard</small>	 Cut <small>Copy</small>	 Attach File <small>Actions</small>	 Spelling <small>ABC</small> Spelling
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Vessel * ▼
Vessel reporting positions manually, or having its VMS switched off

VMS Status *
 Malfunction
 Not Fitted
 Switched Off

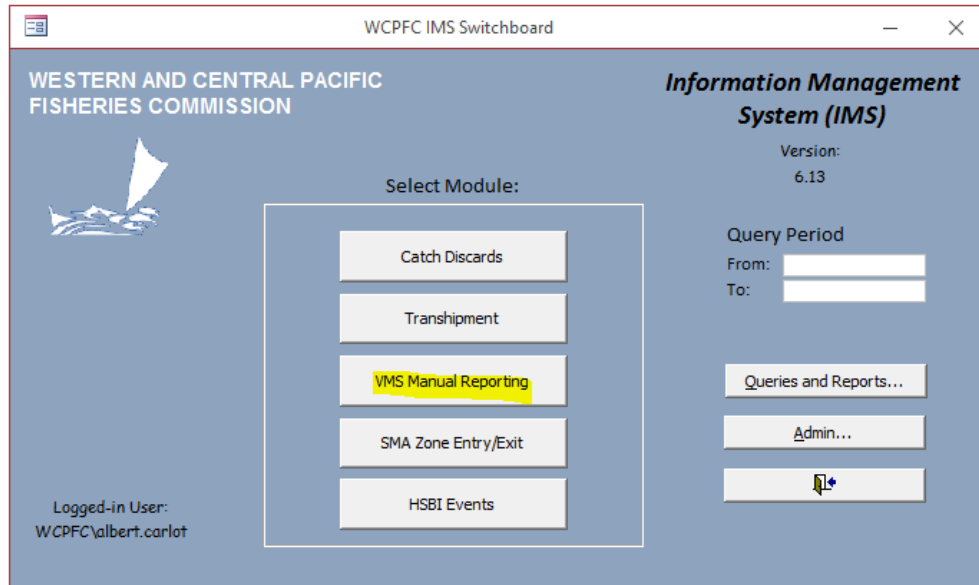
Reporting Start Date * 
The date when manual reporting must commence, or the date when VMS was switched off

VMS Resume Deadline Date * 
The deadline by which VMS reporting must be resumed

VMS Resume Actual Date 
The actual date when VMS reporting resumed

Notes
Any notes regarding this Vessel's manual reporting

All manual position reports should then be entered in the VMS Manual Reporting database.



The vessel may recommence fishing on the high seas only when the MTU/ALC has been confirmed as operational by the WCPFC Secretariat following the flag State CCM informing the Secretariat that the vessel's automatic reporting complies with the regulations established in the Commission VMS Standards, Specifications and Procedures (SSPs).

4.5 Routine Reports from the Secretariat on VMS reporting anomalies and WCPFC VMS

Secretariat will regularly publish to secure CCM portals, accessible by authorized CCM users, supporting information that documents the Commission VMS reporting anomalies for their flagged vessels, on approximately at least a 4 – 6 week basis.

The following reports are provided to TCC annually:

- Annual Report on the Commission VMS;
- Review of integrity of the Secretariats VMS data
- Annual Report on the administration of the data rules and procedures.

Ad hoc reports may be generated on request, and following necessary approvals in accordance with the data rules and administrative procedures.

4.6 Proposals for Inclusion of Additional ALC makes and models on the Approved MLC/ALC List

WCPFC Standards Specifications and procedures (SSPs) for the fishing vessel monitoring system (VMS) of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) – December 2016 (or its update), requires that the Secretariat will assess proposals for inclusion of additional ALC makes and models on this list from both CCMs and equipment manufacturers and make recommendations for the TCC's consideration and the Commission's approval. Approval of ALCs such requests will be based on assessments by the Secretariat of ALCs against minimum standards for the Commission VMS as set out in Annex 1 of CMM 2014-02(or successor measure).

The VMS Manager will request the CCM of such MTU/ALC type and request the CCM to provide supporting documentation that the new MTU/ALC meets the minimum standards for the Commission VMS as set out in Annex 1 of CMM 2014-02 (or successor measure)


The VMS Manager will assess proposals for inclusion of additional MTU/ALC makes and models on this list from both CCMs and equipment manufacturers and make recommendations for the TCC's consideration and the Commission's approval.

The last update of the list of approved MTU/ALCs, which includes submissions by CCMs, can be accessed from the website: <https://www.wcpfc.int/vessel-monitoring-system>

4.7 Commission VMS Helpdesk Support

General queries on the Commission VMS can be sent to VMS.helpdesk@wcpfc.int

If the VMS team is not able to resolve an issue locally it is then escalated to TrackWell VMS Support (vmssupport@trackwell.com) to resolve.

<p><i>On completion.</i> Please return this Agreement form to email: VMShelpdesk@wcpfc.int</p>			
Vessel Tracking Agreement Form¹			
VESSEL DETAILS <i>(as contained in WCPFC Record of Fishing Vessels (RFV))</i>			
Vessel Name:	WCPFC VID:		
Vessel Type:	International Radio Callsign (IRCS):		
	Country Registration Number:		
Country of Registration:	Home Port:		
VESSEL CONTACT DETAILS			
Name of Contact person:			
Contact Address:	Phone number:		
	Cell Phone/Sat-phone #:		
	Email address:		
MOBILE TRANSCEIVER UNIT (MTU)/AUTOMATIC LOCATION COMMUNICATOR (ALC) DETAILS			
Manufacturer:	Model:		
Software version N ^o :	Equipment ID <i>(Manufacturer's serial number for this MTU)</i>		
Network ID: <i>Unique ID Number (user ID) by which MTU is tracked on the satellite network</i>	Name of Mobile Communication Service Provider: <i>(select one)</i> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> ARGOS HALIOS </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> INMARSAT STDC FARIA WATCHDOG </div> OTHER (specify): _____		
INSTRUCTIONS TO SECRETARIAT <i>(select one)</i>			
1. New vessel/MTU to be activated: <input type="checkbox"/> 2. Replacement MTU: <input type="checkbox"/> 3. Spare MTU: <input type="checkbox"/> 4. Other <input type="checkbox"/> <i>(please specify):</i>			
MTU / ALC TRACKING AUTHORISATION			
I _____, the owner of the MTU/ALC described above hereby <i>(Print Name)</i> authorise the WCPFC Secretariat to electronically monitor the unit, and disseminate data from it, in accordance with WCPFC policy. Signature: _____ Date: _____			

¹ Version issued WCPFC Secretariat 7 March 2017. This form is intended to facilitate the submission by flag CCMs of data as per the requirements of VMS SSPs requirement Section 2.8



COMMISSION
FIFTEENTH REGULAR SESSION
Honolulu, Hawaii, USA
10 – 14 December 2018

WCPC RECORD OF FISHING VESSELS AND AUTHORIZATION TO FISH

Conservation and Management Measure 2018-06¹

A. Authorization to fish

1. Each member² of the Commission shall:

(a) authorize its vessels to fish in the Convention Area, consistent with article 24 of the Convention, only where it is able to exercise effectively its responsibilities in respect of such vessels under the 1982 Convention, the Agreement and this Convention;

(b) take necessary measures to ensure that its vessels comply with conservation and management measures adopted pursuant to the Convention;

(c) take necessary measures to ensure that fishing for highly migratory fish stocks in the Convention Area is conducted only by vessels flying the flag of a member of the Commission, and in respect of non-member carriers and bunkers, in accordance with Section D of this Measure³;

(d) take necessary measures to ensure that any fishing vessel flying its flag conducts fishing in areas under the national jurisdiction of another State only where the vessel holds an appropriate license, permit or authorization, as may be required by such other State;

(e) undertake to manage the number of authorizations to fish and the level of fishing effort commensurate with the fishing opportunities available to that member in the Convention Area;

(f) ensure that no authorization to fish in the Convention Area is issued to a vessel that has a history of illegal, unreported or unregulated (IUU) fishing, unless the ownership of the vessel has subsequently changed and the new owner has provided sufficient evidence demonstrating that the previous owner or operator has no legal, beneficial or financial interest in, or control of the vessels, or the member concerned is satisfied that, having taken into account all relevant facts, the vessel is no longer engaged in or associated with IUU fishing;

(g) withdraw authorizations to fish consistent with article 25(4) of the Convention;

¹ This measure revised CMM 2017-05 to expand footnote 4. CMM 2017-05 had revised CMM 2013-10 by inclusion of footnote 6. CMM 2013-10 had previously revised CMM 2009-01 to incorporate the UVI requirement adopted at WCPFC10. The revisions were: inclusion of paragraph 6(s), footnote 4 and paragraph 11.

² The term “member” when used in this measure includes cooperating non-members

³ This revision (CMM 2009-01 revised) was to correct a cross referencing error in paragraph 36

(h) take into account the history of violations by fishing vessels and operators when considering applications for authorization to fish by fishing vessels flying its flag;

(i) take necessary measures to ensure that the owners of the vessels on the Record flying its flag are citizens, residents or legal entities within its jurisdiction so that any control or punitive actions can be effectively taken against them.

2. Each member of the Commission shall take necessary measures to ensure that its fishing vessels, when in the Convention Area, only tranship to/from, and provide bunkering for, are bunkered by or otherwise supported by:

(a) vessels flagged to members, or

(b) Other vessels flagged to States not members of the Commission only if such vessels are on the WCPFC Interim Register of non-Member Carrier and Bunker Vessels established under section D below (the "Register"); or

(c) Vessels operated under charter, lease, or similar mechanisms in accordance with paragraphs 42 to 44 of this measure.

3. No member of the Commission shall allow any fishing vessel entitled to fly its flag to be used for fishing in the Convention Area beyond areas of national jurisdiction unless it has been authorized to do so by the appropriate authority or authorities of that member.

4. Each such authorization shall set forth for the vessel to which it is issued:

(a) the specific areas, species and time periods for which the authorization is valid;

(b) permitted activities by the vessel;

(c) a prohibition of fishing, retention on board, transshipment or landing by the vessel in areas under the national jurisdiction of another State except pursuant to any license, permit or authorization that may be required by such other State;

(d) the requirement that the vessel keep on board the authorization issued pursuant to paragraph 1 above, or certified copy thereof; any license, permit or authorization, or certified copy thereof, issued by a coastal State, as well as a valid certificate of vessel registration; and

(e) any other specific conditions to give effect to the provisions of the Convention and conservation and management measures adopted pursuant to it.

B. Members' record of fishing vessels

5. Pursuant to article 24(4) on the Convention, each member of the Commission shall maintain a record of fishing vessels entitled to fly its flag and authorized to fish in the Convention Area beyond its area of national jurisdiction, and shall ensure that all such fishing vessels are entered in that record.

6. Each member of the Commission shall submit, electronically where possible, to the Executive Director the following information with respect to each vessel entered in its record:

(a) name of the fishing vessel, registration number, WCPFC Identification Number (WIN), previous names (if known) and port of registry;

(b) name and address of the owner or owners;

- (c) name and nationality of the master;
- (d) previous flag (if any);
- (e) International Radio Call sign
- (f) vessel communication types and numbers (Inmarsat A, B and C numbers and satellite telephone number);
- (g) colour photograph of the vessel;
- (h) where and when the vessel was built;
- (i) type of vessel;
- (j) normal crew complement;
- (k) type of fishing method or methods;
- (l) length (specify type and metric);
- (m) moulded depth (specify metric);
- (n) beam (specify metric);
- (o) gross registered tonnage (GRT) or gross tonnage (GT);
- (p) power of main engine or engines (specify metric);
- (q) carrying capacity, including freezer type, capacity and number, fish hold capacity and capacity of freezer chambers (specify metric);
- (r) the form and number of the authorization granted by the flag State including any specific areas, species and time periods for which it is valid; and.
- (s) International Maritime Organization (IMO) number or Lloyd's Register (LR) number, if issued⁴

7. After 1 July 2005, each member of the Commission shall notify the Executive Director, within 15 days, or in any case within 72 hours before commencement of fishing activities in the Convention Area by the vessel concerned, of:

- (a) any vessel added to its Record along with the information set forth in paragraph 6;
- (b) any change in the information referred to in paragraph 6 with respect to any vessel on its record; and
- (c) any vessel deleted from its record along with the reason for such deletion in accordance with article 24 (6) of the Convention,

8. Each member of the Commission shall submit to the Executive Director, information requested by the Executive Director with respect to fishing vessels entered in its national record of fishing vessels within fifteen (15) days of such request.

9. Before 1 July of each year, each Member shall submit to the Executive Director a list of all vessels that appeared in its record of fishing vessels at any time during the preceding calendar year, together with each vessel's WCPFC identification number (WIN) and an indication of whether each vessel fished for highly migratory fish stocks in the Convention Area beyond its area of national jurisdiction. The indication shall be expressed as (a) fished, or (b) did not fish.

10. Members that operate lease, charter arrangements or similar arrangements that result in data reporting obligations being conferred to a party other than the flag State will make arrangements to ensure that the flag State can meet its obligations under paragraph 9.

⁴ Effective 1 January 2016, flag CCMs shall ensure that all their fishing vessels that are authorized to be used for fishing in the Convention Area beyond the flag CCM's area of national jurisdiction and that are at least 100 GT or 100 GRT in size have IMO or LR numbers issued to them. Effective 1 April 2020, flag CCMs shall ensure that all their motorized inboard fishing vessels of less than 100 GRT (or 100 GRT) down to a size of 12 meters in length overall (LOA), authorized to be used for fishing in the Convention Area beyond the flag CCM's area of national jurisdiction have an IMO or LR issued.

11. In assessing compliance with 6(s) above, the Commission shall take into account extraordinary circumstances in which a vessel owner is not able to obtain an IMO or LR number despite following the appropriate procedures. Flag CCMs shall report any such extraordinary situations in Part 2 of their annual reports.

C. WCPFC Record of Fishing Vessels

12. The Commission shall, in accordance with article 24(7) of the Convention and based on the information provided to the Commission in accordance with the Convention and these procedures, establish and maintain its own record of fishing vessels authorized to fish in the Convention Area beyond the national jurisdiction of the member of the Commission whose flag the vessel is flying. Such record shall be known as the WCPFC Record of Fishing Vessels (the "Record").

13. The Record shall include for each vessel an indication of whether or not it was active in the Convention Area beyond its flag State's area of national jurisdiction in each of the preceding years starting in 2007, consistent with the information provided by Members under paragraph 9.

14. The Executive Director shall ensure that due publicity is given to the Record and the Register including making its contents available through an appropriate website.

15. In addition, the Executive Director shall circulate an annual summary of the information contained in the Record and the Register to all members and participating territories (CCMs) of the Commission at least 30 days prior to the annual meeting of the Commission.

16. CCMs shall review their own internal actions and measures taken pursuant to paragraph 1, including sanctions and punitive actions and, in a manner consistent with domestic law as regards disclosure, report annually to the Commission the results of the review. In consideration of the results of such review, the Commission shall, if appropriate, request that the Flag State, or member, of vessels on the Record or the Register take further action to enhance compliance by those vessels with WCPFC conservation and management measures.

17. It is the responsibility of each member of the Commission to ensure that its fishing vessels have been placed on the WCPFC Record of Fishing Vessels in accordance with the requirements of this measure, and any vessel not included in the WCPFC Record of Fishing Vessels shall be deemed not to be authorized to fish for, retain on board, transship or land highly migratory fish stocks in the Convention Area beyond the national jurisdiction of its flag State. Each member of the Commission shall prohibit such activities by any vessel entitled to fly its flag that is not included on the Record and shall treat a violation of this prohibition as a serious violation. Such vessels shall be eligible to be considered for IUU listing.⁵

18. Each CCM shall further prohibit landing at its ports or transshipment to vessels flying its flag of highly migratory fish stocks caught in the Convention Area by vessels not entered on the Record or the Register.

19. Each CCM shall notify the Executive Director, in accordance with the relevant provisions of article 25 of the Convention, of any factual information showing that there are reasonable grounds to

⁵ This revision is to correct an omission in an amendment to this paragraph under CMM 2004-01 that was approved in WCPFC6, but not included in the new CMM 2009-01

suspect that a vessel that is not on the Record or the Register is or has been engaged in fishing for or transshipment of highly migratory fish stocks in the Convention Area.

20. If such vessel is flying the flag of a member of the Commission, the Executive Director shall notify that member and shall request that member to take the necessary measures to prevent the vessel from fishing for highly migratory fish stocks in the Convention Area and to report back on the actions taken with respect to the vessel.

21. Paragraphs 17 to 19 do not apply in respect of vessels that operate entirely in the Exclusive Economic Zone of a CCM and that are flagged to that CCM.⁶

22. If such vessel is flying the flag of a non-member without cooperating status or if the flag of the vessel cannot be determined, the Executive Director shall inform all CCMs so that they may, in addition to measures specified in paragraph 16, take appropriate action consistent with the Convention.

23. The Commission and the CCMs concerned shall communicate with each other, and make the best efforts with FAO and other relevant regional fishery management bodies to develop and implement appropriate measures, where feasible, including the establishment of records of a similar nature in a timely manner so as to avoid adverse effects upon fishery resources in other oceans. Such adverse effects might consist of excessive fishing pressure resulting from a movement of IUU fishing vessels between areas covered by other regional fishery management organizations.

24. If, through a decision of the Commission, a vessel that is contained on the Record is included on the WCPFC IUU List, the flag State or responsible State shall revoke, consistent with applicable national law, the vessels' authorization to fish beyond the national jurisdiction of its flag State. Executive Director shall remove that vessel from the Record as soon as practicable after being notified under paragraph 7(c).

D. WCPFC Interim Register of non-Member Carrier and Bunker Vessels

25. The Commission encourages all flag states of carrier and bunker vessels that operate in the Convention Area and have been listed on the Temporary Register of Non-CCM Carrier and Bunker Vessels to apply for Cooperating Non-Member (CNM) status as soon as possible. Towards that end, the Secretariat will share copies of this conservation and management measure with appropriate contacts in all such flag States as soon as practicable.

26. The Commission shall consider all such applicants in accordance with the conservation and management measure, noting its ability to grant CNM status to an applicant subject to the restriction that it may only provide carrier and bunker vessels to the fishery.

2010 to 2012

27. The Commission hereby establishes an Interim Register of Non-Member Carrier and Bunker Vessels (the "Register").

28. Vessels that are included by the Commission on the Register in accordance with the provisions of this section shall be authorised to be used in the Convention Area to receive transshipments of highly

⁶ Paragraphs 17 – 19 also do not apply to Samoan-flagged longline vessels that fish exclusively in the Samoa Exclusive Economic Zone, use an adjacent CCM's port for the purpose of unloading its catch in that port and that adjacent CCM does not object to the use of its port for this purpose.

migratory fish stocks and to bunker or otherwise supply CCM-flagged fishing vessels used to fish for highly migratory fish stocks in the Convention Area.

29. Any Member of the Commission may at any time submit to the Executive Director, in electronic format if possible, a list of any carrier vessels and bunker vessels that it wishes to be included on the Register. This List shall include the information described at paragraph 6 above as well as the flag State of the vessel.

30. The CCM(s) recommending vessels to be included on the Register shall attest that the vessel or vessels being recommended are not vessels:

- (a) with a history of illegal, unreported or unregulated (IUU) fishing, unless the ownership of the vessel has subsequently changed and the new owner has provided sufficient evidence demonstrating that the previous owner or operator has no legal, beneficial or financial interest in, or control of the vessels, or the CCM concerned is satisfied that, having taken into account all relevant facts, the vessel is no longer engaged in or associated with IUU fishing; or
- (b) that are currently listed on any of the IUU vessel lists adopted by regional fishery management organizations (RFMOs); or
- (c) that were removed from the Register pursuant to paragraph 39 within the one-year period prior to the receipt of the information under paragraph 4.

31. It shall be a condition for inclusion on the Register that the owner or manager/operator of the vessel provides a written undertaking, addressed to the Commission, that the owner, manager/operator and master of the carrier or bunker vessel will fully comply with all applicable decisions of the Commission, including conservation and management measures. Any reference in Commission decisions to member-flagged vessels shall be construed to include non-member flagged-vessels for the purposes of these written undertakings. These undertakings shall include an explicit commitment to allow any inspection duly authorized under the Commission's High Seas Boarding and Inspection Procedures to board and inspect the vessel on the high seas. These undertakings shall also include an agreement to cover the costs associated with complying with Commission decisions, such as the costs of VMS registration and observer placement.

32. Until such time as the Commission undertakes a review to determine vessel specific costs relevant to paragraph 31 above, vessels operators shall commit to pay a nominal fee to contribute to the work of the Commission.

33. It shall be the responsibility of the owner or manager/operator to ensure that any such undertaking is compliant with national laws of its flag State. In addition, the owner or manager/operator of the vessel is encouraged to obtain a statement of support from the flag State, including an explicit statement of its position in respect of high seas boarding and inspection.

34. The Secretariat will post on the Commission website a list of all the applicable conservation and management measures and other applicable Commission decisions that the written undertaking must cover. It will also be a condition that the owner, manager/operator or master of the carrier or bunker vessel will notify the Secretariat of any changes to the information provided under paragraph 29 within 15 days of the change.

35. Failure by the owner, manager/operator or master of a vessel on the Register to fully comply with applicable decisions of the Commission, including conservation and management measures, shall constitute an appropriate basis for placement of such vessel on the Commission's Draft IUU Vessel List

in accordance with the relevant conservation and management measure for establishing the WCPFC IUU Vessel List.

36. Within 7 business days of receipt of complete information for a carrier or bunker vessel under paragraphs 29 to 31, the Secretariat will include the vessel on the Register and within 7 business days of receipt of any changes to such information, the Secretariat will include the updated information in the Register. For each vessel, the Register will include all the information listed in paragraph 6, a copy of the written undertaking provided under paragraph 31, and the CCM(s) that requested inclusion of the vessel on the Register.

37. As soon as possible after receipt of complete information for a carrier and Bunker vessel under paragraphs 29 to 31, the Secretariat shall notify the flag State and provide an opportunity for the flag State to convey its position, including an explicit statement or position in respect of high seas boarding and inspection if not already done so under paragraph 31.

38. The Commission will periodically monitor the IUU vessel lists maintained by RFMOs. At any time that a vessel on the Register is also on one of those IUU vessel lists, the Secretariat will:

- (a) notify Members and the owner of the vessel of its finding and that the vessel will be removed from the Register, effective 30 days from the date of the notice; and
- (b) 30 days from the notice given under sub-paragraph (a), remove the vessel from the Register.

39. The Commission shall monitor the performance of the vessels on the Register with respect to the written undertakings submitted under paragraph 31. If at any time a Member of the Commission finds evidence that the owner, manager/operator or master of a vessel on the Register has failed to fully discharge those undertakings:

- (a) the Member of the Commission shall immediately submit such evidence to the Secretariat;
- (b) the Secretariat will immediately circulate such evidence to the CCMs of the Commission;
- (c) the Commission shall review the evidence and decide whether or not to remove the vessel from the Register. If the Commission is to next meet between 14 and 60 days after the circulation made under paragraph 39(b), such decision shall be made in the next session of the Commission, otherwise it shall be made in accordance with the Commission Rules of Procedure as they relate to inter-sessional decision-making;
- (d) if the Commission decides to remove a vessel from the Register, the Secretariat will notify the owner of the vessel of the decision within 7 days and remove the vessel from the Register 60 days after the Commission's decision.
- (e) The Executive Director shall advise all CCMs and the flag State of the completion of action taken under paragraph 39(d).

40. The Register shall expire 60 days after the Annual Regular Session of the Commission in 2012 unless the Commission decides otherwise at its Regular Annual Session in 2012. The TCC will conduct a review in 2011 and 2012 of the non-CCM flagged fleet including an assessment of potential economic impacts to HMS fisheries in the Convention Area and unforeseen circumstances that could arise through prohibition of non-CCM carriers and bunkers.

2013 and beyond

41. Noting paragraphs 25 and 26 above the Commission expects that after the annual regular session of the Commission in 2013, the majority of carrier and bunker vessels will be flagged to Members.

42. Notwithstanding this expectation, a carrier or bunker vessel flagged to a non-member but operated under charter, lease or other similar mechanisms as an integral part of the fishery of a CCM shall be considered to be vessels of the host CCM and, where the vessel shall be operating in waters under the jurisdiction of more than one CCM, must be included in the CCM's record of fishing vessels under section B accordingly. In such case, the Record shall distinguish between vessels flagged to the CCM and vessels affiliated through this provision.

43. Such a charter, lease or other arrangement shall provide for the host Member to conduct Monitoring, Control and Surveillance activities relevant to the vessel at any time and allow the Commission to place responsibility on the host Member for ensuring the vessel's compliance with conservation and management measures. Such charter, lease or other arrangement shall include an explicit condition that the vessel will fully comply with all applicable decisions of the Commission, including conservation and management measures. Any reference in Commission decisions to member-flagged vessels shall be construed to include non-member flagged-vessels for the purposes of these conditions. These conditions shall include an explicit commitment to allow any inspection duly authorized under the Commission's High Seas Boarding and Inspection Procedures to board and inspect the vessel on the high seas.

44. Such arrangements may only authorize non-member carrier and bunker vessels to operate in ports and waters under the jurisdiction of a member, as duly authorized by the host Member and the coastal State. The host Member acknowledges that failure by the vessel to comply with conservation and management measures will result in penalties that could include IUU listing, refusal to register other vessels of the same flag and sanctions against the host Member.

E. General

45. The Commission shall keep these procedures under review and may amend them as appropriate.



TCC WORK PLAN 2019 - 2021

TCC Priorities

1) Priority core business tasks (standing Agenda Items)

- a. Monitor and review compliance with conservation and management measures and other obligations stemming from the Convention.
- b. Assessment of IUU fishing vessel nominations and review of fishing vessels currently on the IUU list
- c. Review of Cooperating Non-Member applications.
- d. Monitor obligations relating to Small Island Developing States and territories.
- e. Review the implementation of cooperative measures for monitoring, control, surveillance and enforcement adopted by the Commission and make such recommendations to the Commission as may be necessary.
- f. Review Annual report(s) of the WCPFC Secretariat, which should address relevant technical and compliance issues, which may include HSBI, ROP, VMS, RFV, Data Rules, transshipment, port State measures , and note the Executive Director's report on these matters and other issues as appropriate.
- g. Provide technical and compliance-related advice to support the development of harvest strategies, including consideration of the implications of harvest control rules.
- h. Review the ongoing work of the Intersessional Working Groups (IWG) noted in Section 3.
- i. Review information about technical and compliance matters arising under existing CMMs.
- j. Make technical and compliance related comments on proposed CMMs.

2) Priority project specific tasks

- a. Undertake a comprehensive review and compilation of Commission reporting requirements and provide advice to the Commission on removing duplicative reporting while ensuring the Commission's data needs are met.
 - i. Consider and provide advice to the Commission on the outcomes of the review of

the Commission's data needs and collection programmes (Project 93).

- b. Develop audit points to clarify the assessment of existing Commission obligations, and develop a new proposal checklist to ensure that new proposals adopted by the Commission include clear audit points for assessment.
- c. Review transshipment measure (CMM 2009-06) [IWG task, TCC task]
- d. Develop responses to non-compliance / develop corrective actions to encourage and incentivize CCM's compliance with the Commission's obligations, where non-compliance is identified. [TCC task]
- e. Develop a multi-year program of obligations to be assessed under the CMS, which ensures that all obligations are assessed over time / Develop a risk-based assessment framework to inform compliance assessments and ensure obligations are meeting the objectives of the Commission. [TCC task]
- f. Provide advice on CMMs that need revision to improve compliance and monitoring, including those for which interpretation issues have been identified through the CMS process. [TCC task]
- g. Respond to capacity assistance needs identified through the CMS process, including through annual consideration of implementation plans. [TCC task] \$
- h. Support building the capacity of SIDS, which may include:
 - i. implement observer programs, including training and data management
 - ii. develop and implement the MCS Information Management System at a national level
 - iii. improve bycatch reporting, in particular sharks
 - iv. set up a system or process for reports on transshipment activities and MTU inspections
 - v. implement minimum standards for Port State measure
- i. Further develop port-based initiatives as part of the suite of MCS tools and a summary of port state measures undertaken by members. [TCC task]
- j. Review information about scientific data provision. [TCC task, Secretariat task to prepare papers]
- k. Provide technical and compliance advice to ensure the effective monitoring of CMMs related to sharks, including developing alternatives to the current fins-to-carcass ratio [TCC task]
- l. Development, improvement and implementation of the Commission's measures for observer safety and related issues [TCC task]
- m. Further development of protocols, observer data fields/forms including electronic data fields and databases, as needed, to better monitor transshipments at sea, [TCC task, Secretariat task] \$
- n. Enhance how CCM's and Secretariat's practices integrate to facilitate ongoing

monitoring and compliance with CMM 2014-02 (VMS) [TCC task with assistance from Secretariat] \$

- o. Analyze framework for the management and control of chartered vessels to promote compliance with CMMs, clarify flag and chartering CCM's control of chartered vessels, and clarify attribution of catch and effort. [TCC task]
- p. Develop information and advice to promote compliance with the south Pacific albacore CMM (2015-02 and successor measures) and improve its effectiveness, including providing technical and compliance advice for the development and implementation of the south Pacific albacore roadmap. [TCC task, with support from SPC]
- q. Develop improved mechanisms for the flow of observer information from ROP Providers to CCMs needing such information for their investigations. [TCC task]
- r. Develop a mechanism to facilitate observer participation in the compliance review process. [TCC task]
- s. Continued development of the Commission's IMS to support implementation of the Compliance Monitoring Scheme and support MCS activities, including exploration of IMS data submission and extraction tools. [TCC task, Secretariat task] \$
- t. Continued development of training resources and learning aids for the IMS [Secretariat task] \$?
- u. Consider options to mitigate the impacts of an unscheduled disruption to Secretariat services on the Compliance Monitoring Scheme [TCC task, Secretariat task]
- v. Review and consider updates to improve the effectiveness of CMMs related to transshipment at sea and compliance with their provisions

3) Intersessional working groups *Budgets and timeframes to be assessed separately*

ROP IWG: Review ROP.

FAD IWG: Review and develop FAD measures.

CDS IWG: Develop and implement a Catch Documentation Scheme for WCPFC species.

EM and ER IWG: Continue the development of standards, specifications and procedures for e-technologies.

CMS IWG:

Develop a multi-year workplan to enhance the CMS and undertake compatible efforts to enhance implementation of the CMS, as may be identified in a revised CMM for the CMS or as otherwise tasked by the Commission.

4) Priority Issues forwarded from the Commission (pending Commission meeting) TCC Score Board

2019	2020	2021
Article 14(1)(a) Priority tasks with respect to the provision of information, technical advice and recommendations		
Provide advice on CMMs that need revision to improve compliance and monitoring, including those for which interpretation issues have been identified through the CMS process.	Provide advice on CMMs that need revision to improve compliance and monitoring, including those for which interpretation issues have been identified through the CMS process.	Provide advice on CMMs that need revision to improve compliance and monitoring, including those for which interpretation issues have been identified through the CMS process.
Technical and compliance-related advice to support the development of harvest strategies, including consideration of the implications of harvest control rules	Technical and compliance-related advice to support the development of harvest strategies, including consideration of the implications of harvest control rules	Technical and compliance-related advice to support the development of harvest strategies, including consideration of the implications of harvest control rules
Advice related to the [development]/[implementation] of a consolidated sharks measure.		
Review Commission reporting requirements and provide advice to the Commission on removing duplicative reporting while ensuring the Commission's data needs are met, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consideration of the outcomes of the review of the Commission's data needs and collection programmes (Project 93). 		
Review transshipment measure (CMM 2009-06), through IWG		
Provide advice related to technical and compliance	Provide advice related to technical and compliance	

2019	2020	2021
aspects of strengthened management of south Pacific albacore under the Roadmap process.	aspects of strengthened management of south Pacific albacore under the Roadmap process.	
	Provide advice related to control of and attribution of catch/effort related to chartered vessels.	
Article 14(1)(b) Priority tasks with respect to the monitoring and review of compliance		
Develop audit points for Commission obligations and develop a new proposal checklist to ensure identification of audit points for new proposals.	Develop audit points for Commission obligations.	
Develop a risk-based framework for prioritizing obligations for assessment.	Develop a risk-based framework for prioritizing obligations for assessment.	
	Develop responses to non-compliance / Develop corrective actions to encourage and incentivize CCM's compliance with the Commission's obligations.	Develop responses to non-compliance / Develop corrective actions to encourage and incentivize CCM's compliance with the Commission's obligations.
Respond to capacity assistance needs identified through the CMS process, including through annual consideration of implementation plans. \$	Respond to capacity assistance needs identified through the CMS process, including through annual consideration of implementation plans. \$	Respond to capacity assistance needs identified through the CMS process, including through annual consideration of implementation plans. \$
Review information about scientific data provision	Review information about scientific data provision	Review information about scientific data provision
Develop a mechanism to facilitate observer participation in the compliance review process.		

2019	2020	2021
Consider options to mitigate the impacts of an unscheduled disruption to Secretariat services on the CMS.		
Article 14(1)(c) Priority tasks with respects to implementation of cooperative MCS & E		
Implement observer programs, including training and data management \$		Implement observer programs, including training and data management [\$]
Support efforts by CCMs and the Secretariat to continue technical work intersessionally to optimize TCC's efficiency evaluating CCM's VMS compliance.	Develop and implement the MCS Information Management System at a national level \$	Develop and implement the MCS Information Management System at a national level \$
Develop improved mechanisms for the flow of observer information from ROP providers to CCMs needing such information for their investigations.		
IMS development \$	IMS development \$	IMS development \$



Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC)
E-REPORTING STANDARDS FOR HIGH SEAS
TRANSHIPMENT DECLARATIONS AND HIGH SEAS TRANSHIPMENT NOTICES

14 December 2018

<i>CURRENT VERSION:</i>	<i>3.0</i>
<i>DATE:</i>	<i>14 December 2018</i>
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<i>Version Number</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Brief Description of Changes</i>
1.0	14 December 2018	The original standards adopted by the Commission at WCPFC15.

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1. INTRODUCTION

This document sets out the standards for the provision of High Seas Transshipment Declarations and Transshipment Notices to the WCPFC through the mechanism of electronic reporting (e-reporting). CMM2009-06 defines the requirements for CCMs to supply Transshipment Declarations and Transshipment Notices to the Executive Director; and documents the information to be included in these.

E-reporting has the potential to:

- Improve the quality of information received, because e-reporting makes it possible to do data quality checks at the source of the data
- Improve the timeliness of information availability, because there is no delay waiting for data entry
- Reduce costs for the Commission, by reducing the resources that the Commission must commit to data entry.

Standards are a critical element of any E-reporting infrastructure. For E-reporting to function efficiently, the data sent by the transmitting computer must be in the exact format that the receiving computer is expecting. Where this does not occur, human intervention will be required to re-format the data before it can be loaded.

Note that:

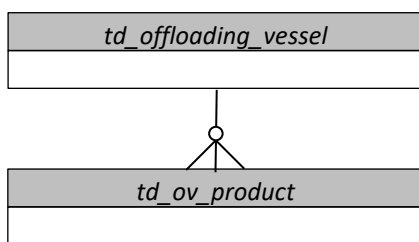
- a) This document includes standards for (1) initially submitting a transshipment declaration or notice and (2) subsequently amending that declaration or notice and (3) cancelling a previous declaration or notice.
- b) Generally, the fields of information specified in these standards are the same as those documented in Annex I and Annex III of CMM2009-06. However, some additional information is required to enable the efficient operation of e-reporting. These instances are clearly identified, and the rationale behind each is documented in the standards that follow. In most cases this additional information could be generated automatically by the sender's computer. These standards do not request any additional information of an operational nature.
- c) One of the additional items of information requested is a contact email address for the submitter. Upon the receipt of a transshipment declaration or notice, the WCPFC would send a confirmation email to the contact email address provided. The reporting CCM is to be declared by the submitter.
- d) Under these standards the collection of some operational data, as required by Annex I and Annex III of CMM2009-06, is waived in the case of information submitted via e-reporting. This is specifically the case where E-reporting offers the opportunity to collect equivalent information without double data entry. These proposals are clearly documented in the sections 3.d, 4.d and 6.d.

2. STANDARDS FOR THE E-REPORTING OF TRANSHIPMENT INFORMATION

- a) Where a vessel, agent or CCM elects to use e-reporting to comply with paragraph 10 of CMM2009-06; the declaration for the offloading vessel must comply with the standards contained in sections 3.a, 3.b, 3.c and 7 of this document.
- b) Where a vessel, agent or CCM elects to use e-reporting to comply with paragraph 10 of CMM2009-06; the declaration for the receiving vessel must comply with the standards contained in sections 4.a, 4.b, 4.c and 7 of this document.
- c) Where a vessel, agent or CCM elects to use e-reporting to comply with paragraph 35 of CMM2009-06; the notice for the offloading vessel must comply with the standards contained in sections 5.a, 5.b, 5.c and 7 of this document.
- d) Where a vessel, agent or CCM elects to use e-reporting to comply with paragraph 35 of CMM2009-06; the notice for the receiving vessel must comply with the standards contained in sections 6.a, 6.b, 6.c and 7 of this document.

3. OFFLOADING VESSEL HIGH SEAS TRANSHIPMENT DECLARATIONS

3.a Standards for the structure of new or amended e-reports



For each Offloading Vessel Transhipment Declaration, there must be:

- one *td_offloading_vessel* record
- one *td_ov_product* record for each combination of Species / Processed State / Fresh or Frozen / Location of Catch product that was transhipped. For example, the information shown below would be represented by five *td_ov_product* records.

Species	Processed State	Fresh or Frozen	Location of Catch	Quantity
ALB	Gutted & Headed	Fresh	Cook Islands EEZ	1.250t
ALB	Gilled, Gutted & Tailed	Fresh	Cook Islands EEZ	0.525t
ALB	Gilled, Gutted & Tailed	Frozen	Cook Islands EEZ	4.829t
ALB	Gilled, Gutted & Tailed	Frozen	WCPFC High Seas	1.175t
BET	Gilled, Gutted & Tailed	Frozen	WCPFC High Seas	3.678t

Any Offloading Vessel Transhipment Declaration must be able to be uniquely identified by concatenating:

- the vessel’s WCPFC WIN number; and
- the date and time that the declaration was submitted.

The *td_ov_product* records for a single transhipment, must be able to be logically linked to the *td_offloading_vessel* record for the same transhipment, using the concatenated vessel’s WIN number and declaration datetime.

3.b Standards for the records and fields to be provided

RECORD NAME: <i>td_offloading_vessel</i>			
All of the fields listed below are required in each record. No field may contain missing or null values.			
Information Required	Field Name	Field Format	Notes
The Offloading Vessel's WCPFC Identification Number (WIN)	<i>off_win</i>	VARCHAR(16) Example: <i>ABC1234</i>	Reference: CMM2009-06, annex 1, para 2. Validation: Must be a valid WIN, on the date of transshipment, in the WCPFC Record of Fishing Vessels.
The Offloading Vessel's Name	<i>off_vessel</i>	VARCHAR(64) Example: <i>Lucky Fisher III</i>	Reference: CMM2009-06, annex 1, para 2. Validation: Must be the vessel name which, in the WCPFC Record of Fishing Vessels, corresponds to the <i>off_win</i> provided.
The Receiving Vessel's WCPFC Identification Number (WIN)	<i>rec_win</i>	VARCHAR(16) Example: <i>DEF5678</i>	Reference: CMM2009-06, annex 1, para 3. Validation: Must be a valid WIN, on the date of transshipment, in the WCPFC Record of Fishing Vessels.
The Receiving Vessel's name	<i>rec_vessel</i>	VARCHAR(64) Example: <i>Super Hauler 2</i>	Reference: CMM2009-06, annex 1, para 3. Validation: Must be the vessel name which, in the WCPFC Record of Fishing Vessels, corresponds to the <i>rec_win</i> provided.
The fishing gear used to take the fish	<i>fishing_gear</i>	VARCHAR(16), Uppercase If more than one type of gear was used, then separate the list using dashes. Example: <i>LLS-LLD</i>	Reference: CMM2009-06, annex 1, para 4. Validation: Must be a valid fishing gear code as found in Appendix 1, or list of fishing gear codes separated by dashes.
The date on which the transshipment started	<i>trans_date</i>	VARCHAR(22) ISO8601, – UTC date or local datetime. See Appendix 2. Example: <i>2016-11-25Z</i> <i>2016-11-25T00:00+0700</i>	Reference: CMM2009-06, annex 1, para 9. Validation: Must be a date in the recent past. If a UTC date is used then this must include the "Z" suffix. If a local datetime is used then this must include the hours offset from UTC time as the suffix.
The location at which the transshipment started	<i>trans_loc</i>	VARCHAR(13), Uppercase Example: <i>WCPFC-HS</i>	Reference: CMM2009-06, annex 1, para 9. Validation: Must be a valid location code as found in Appendix 3.

The latitude at which the transshipment started	<i>trans_latitude</i>	CHAR(5) ISO6709, to the nearest 0.1 degree ±DD.D Example for Pohnpei Airport: +07.0	Reference: CMM2009-06, annex 1, para 9. Validation: Must be a valid latitude.
The longitude at which the transshipment started	<i>trans_longitude</i>	CHAR(6) ISO6709, to the nearest 0.1 degree ±DDD.D Example for Pohnpei Airport: +158.2	Reference: CMM2009-06, annex 1, para 9. Validation: (1) Must be a valid longitude and (2) Should, when considered along with the <i>trans_latitude</i> , represent a location that is at sea and within the <i>trans_loc</i> .
The name of the WCPFC observer	<i>obs_name</i>	VARCHAR(64)	Reference: CMM2009-06, annex 1, para 10. Validation: Must not be blank. Use “No Observer” where no observer was present.
Whether this is a new transshipment declaration, or an amendment to a previous transshipment declaration	<i>trans_id</i>	CHAR(16) Example: <i>New-Transshipment</i>	NEW - Rationale: Needed to allow already submitted transshipment declarations to be amended. Validation: In the case of new transshipment declarations, must be “New-Transshipment”. In the case of amendments to a previous transshipment declaration, must be the Transshipment ID that the WCPFC sent to the contact email address when confirming receipt of the declaration.
The date and time that the declaration was submitted	<i>submit_time</i>	VARCHAR(22) ISO 8601 – Date and time without seconds. See Appendix 2. Example:2016-11-25T14:46+11:00	NEW - Rationale: Needed (along with the <i>off_win</i> field) to allow <i>td_offloading_vessel</i> records and <i>td_ov_product</i> records to be correctly linked. Validation: Must be a recent earlier date/time, including the hours offset from UTC time. Note: Could be automatically generated by the submitters computer system at the moment that the declaration was sent.
The number of transhipped product records that are being submitted	<i>product_count</i>	INTEGER Example: 25 Must be 0 if no product was transhipped.	NEW - Rationale: Needed to ensure that product transhipped records have not been lost or duplicated in transmission. Note: Could be automatically generated by the submitters computer system at the moment that the declaration was sent.
The CCM responsible for reporting this transshipment	<i>reporting_ccm</i>	CHAR(2) Example: VU	NEW – A two letter code representing the CCM responsible for reporting the transshipment. Validation: Must be a valid CCM WCPFC alpha-2 two-letter Country Code.

A contact email address	<i>contact_email</i>	VARCHAR(50) Example: <i>a.fisher@gmail.com</i>	NEW - Rationale: An email address that WCPFC should use to (1) confirm receipt of this declaration and (2) contact if there are any problems with the quality / completeness of this declaration. Validation: Must be a valid email address.
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RECORD NAME: td_ov_product			
All of the fields listed below are required in each record. No field may contain missing or null values.			
Information Required	Field Name	Field Format	Notes
The Offloading Vessel's WCPFC Identification Number (WIN)	<i>off_win</i>	VARCHAR(16) Example: <i>ABC1234</i>	DUPLICATE - Rationale: Needed (along with the <i>submit_time</i> field) to allow <i>td_offloading_vessel</i> records and <i>td_ov_product</i> records to be correctly linked. Validation: Must have a matching entry in the <i>td_offloading_vessel</i> record.
The date and time that the declaration was submitted	<i>submit_time</i>	VARCHAR(22) ISO 8601 – Date and time without seconds. See Appendix 2. Example: <i>2016-11-25T14:46+11:00</i>	NEW & DUPLICATE - Rationale: Needed (along with the <i>off_win</i> field) to allow <i>td_offloading_vessel</i> records and <i>td_ov_product</i> records to be correctly linked. Validation: Must have a matching entry in the <i>td_offloading_vessel</i> record.
The species that was transhipped	<i>species</i>	CHAR(3), Uppercase The three-letter FAO species code for the species. Example: <i>SKJ</i>	Reference: CMM2009-06, annex 1, para 5. Validation: Must be a valid three-letter FAO species code - www.fao.org/fishery/collection/asfis/en
The processed state of the transhipped fish	<i>processed_state</i>	CHAR(2), Uppercase Example: <i>WH</i>	Reference: CMM2009-06, annex 1, para 5. Validation: Must be a valid processed state code as found in Appendix 4.
Whether the transhipped fish was fresh or frozen	<i>fresh_frozen</i>	VARCHAR(6), containing the string "Fresh" or "Frozen"	Reference: CMM2009-06, annex 1, para 6.

The geographic location of the catch	<i>catch_loc</i>	VARCHAR(13), Uppercase Example: <i>WCPFC-HS</i>	Reference: CMM2009-06, annex 1, para 8. Validation: Must be a valid location code as found in Appendix 3.
The quantity of the product that was transhipped	<i>quantity_product</i>	FLOAT Example: <i>3.92</i>	Reference: CMM2009-06, annex 1, para 5. The weight of product transhipped, measured in metric tonnes.

3.c Standards for cancelling a previously submitted e-report

<i>td_ov_cancel</i>

It will be possible to use e-reporting to cancel a previously submitted Offloading Vessel Transhipment Declaration. For each Offloading Vessel Transhipment Declaration cancellation, there must be one *td_ov_cancel* record.

RECORD NAME: <i>td_ov_cancel</i>			
All of the fields listed below are required in each record. No field may contain missing or null values.			
Information Required	Field Name	Field Format	Notes
The Offloading Vessel's WCPFC Identification Number (WIN)	<i>off_win</i>	VARCHAR(16) Example: <i>ABC1234</i>	Reference: CMM2009-06, annex 1, para 2. Validation: Must be a valid WIN, on the date of transhipment, in the WCPFC Record of Fishing Vessels.
The WCPFC Transhipment ID for the Offloading Vessel Transhipment Declaration that is being cancelled	<i>trans_id</i>	CHAR(16) Example: <i>HPOU6685WDXZ2309</i>	Rationale: Needed to allow already submitted transhipment declarations to be amended. Validation: Must be a valid WCPFC Transhipment ID, for a transhipment declaration that had previously been made by the offloading vessel. Note: This ID will have been sent by the WCPFC to the contact email address when the Transhipment Declaration was first submitted.
A contact email address	<i>contact_email</i>	VARCHAR(50) Example: <i>a.fisher@gmail.com</i>	Rationale: An email address that WCPFC should use to (1) confirm receipt of this cancellation and (2) contact if there are any problems with the quality / completeness of this cancellation. Validation: Must be a valid email address.

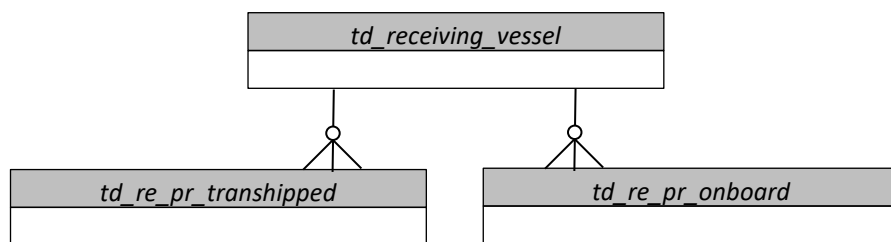
3.d Notes

For the e-reporting of Transshipment Declarations by Offloading Vessels:

- the requirement for the offloading vessel to supply a “Unique Document Identifier” (CMM2009-06, annex 1, para 1) would be waived.
- the requirement for the offloading vessel to supply the signature of a WCPFC observer (CMM2009-06, annex 1, para 10) would be waived.
- the requirement for the offloading vessel to supply the quantity of product already on board the receiving vessel (CMM2009-06, annex 1, para 11) would be waived. The receiving vessel would still be required to supply this information.

4. RECEIVING VESSEL HIGH SEAS TRANSHIPMENT DECLARATIONS

4.a Standards for the structure of new or amended e-reports



For each Receiving Vessel Transhipment Declaration, there must be:

- one *td_receiving_vessel* record
- one *td_re_pr_transhipped* record for each combination of Species / Processed State / Fresh or Frozen product that was transhipped. For example, the information shown below would be represented by four *td_re_pr_transhipped* records.

Species	Processed State	Fresh or Frozen	Quantity
ALB	Gutted & Headed	Fresh	1.25t
ALB	Gilled, Gutted & Tailed	Fresh	0.525t
ALB	Gilled, Gutted & Tailed	Frozen	6.004t
BET	Gilled, Gutted & Tailed	Frozen	3.678t

- one *td_re_pr_onboard* record for each combination of Species / RFMO Of Origin product that was on-board the receiving vessel before the transhipment started. For example, the information shown below would be represented by three *td_re_pr_onboard* records.

Species	RFMO	Quantity
ALB	WCPFC	11.201t
ALB	IOTC	3.02t
BET	IOTC	3.678t

Note on interpreting the CMM - CMM2009-06, annex 1, para 11 requires receiving vessels to report “the quantity of product already on board the receiving vessel”, but is silent on whether the processed state of this product is required. This is open to two interpretations (1) the earlier definition of “product” contained in CMM2009-06, annex 1, para 5 applies or (2) no information on product state is required. In drafting this standard the second interpretation has been used, but this should be clarified before the standard is finalised.

Any Receiving Vessel Transhipment Declaration must be able to be uniquely identified by concatenating:

- the vessel’s WCPFC WIN number; and
- the date and time that the declaration was submitted.

The *td_re_pr_transhipped* and *td_re_pr_onboard* records for a single transhipment, must be able to be logically linked to the *td_receiving_vessel* record for the same transhipment, using the concatenated receiving vessel’s WIN number and declaration datetime.

4.b Standards for the records and fields to be provided

RECORD NAME: <i>td_receiving_vessel</i>			
All of the fields listed below are required in each record. No field may contain missing or null values.			
Information Required	Field Name	Field Format	Notes
The Offloading Vessel's WCPFC Identification Number (WIN)	<i>off_win</i>	VARCHAR(16) Example: <i>ABC1234</i>	Reference: CMM2009-06, annex 1, para 2. Validation: Must be a valid WIN, on the date of transshipment, in the WCPFC Record of Fishing Vessels.
The Offloading Vessel's Name	<i>off_vessel</i>	VARCHAR(64) Example: <i>Lucky Fisher III</i>	Reference: CMM2009-06, annex 1, para 2. Validation: Must be the vessel name which, in the WCPFC Record of Fishing Vessels, corresponds to the <i>off_win</i> provided.
The Receiving Vessel's WCPFC Identification Number (WIN)	<i>rec_win</i>	VARCHAR(16) Example: <i>DEF5678</i>	Reference: CMM2009-06, annex 1, para 3. Validation: Must be a valid WIN, on the date of transshipment, in the WCPFC Record of Fishing Vessels.
The Receiving Vessel's name	<i>rec_vessel</i>	VARCHAR(64) Example: <i>Super Hauler 2</i>	Reference: CMM2009-06, annex 1, para 3. Validation: Must be the vessel name which, in the WCPFC Record of Fishing Vessels, corresponds to the <i>rec_win</i> provided.
The date on which the transshipment started	<i>trans_date</i>	VARCHAR(22) ISO8601, – UTC date or local datetime. See Appendix 2. Example: <i>2016-11-25Z</i> <i>2016-11-25T00:00+0700</i>	Reference: CMM2009-06, annex 1, para 9. Validation: Must be a date in the recent past. If a UTC date is used then this must include the "Z" suffix. If a local datetime is used then this must include the hours offset from UTC time as the suffix.
The location at which the transshipment started	<i>trans_loc</i>	VARCHAR(13), Uppercase Example: <i>WCPFC-HS</i>	Reference: CMM2009-06, annex 1, para 9. Validation: Must be a valid location code as found in Appendix 3.
The latitude at which the transshipment started	<i>trans_latitude</i>	CHAR(5) ISO6709, to the nearest 0.1 degree ±DD.D Example for Pohnpei Airport: <i>+07.0</i>	Reference: CMM2009-06, annex 1, para 9. Validation: Must be a valid latitude.

The longitude at which the transshipment started	<i>trans_longitude</i>	CHAR(6) ISO6709, to the nearest 0.1 degree ±DDD.D Example for Pohnpei Airport: +158.2	Reference: CMM2009-06, annex 1, para 9. Validation: (1) Must be a valid longitude and (2) Should, when considered along with the <i>trans_latitude</i> , represent a location that is at sea and within the <i>trans_loc</i> .
The name of the WCPFC observer	<i>obs_name</i>	VARCHAR(64)	Reference: CMM2009-06, annex 1, para 10. Validation: Must not be blank. Use “No Observer” where no observer was present.
Whether this is a new transshipment declaration, or an amendment to a previous transshipment declaration	<i>trans_id</i>	CHAR(16) Example: <i>New-Transshipment</i>	NEW - Rationale: Needed to allow already submitted transshipment declarations to be amended. Validation: In the case of new transshipment declarations, must be “New-Transshipment”. In the case of amendments to a previous transshipment declaration, must be the Transshipment ID that the WCPFC sent to the contact email address when confirming receipt of the declaration.
The date and time that the declaration was submitted	<i>submit_time</i>	VARCHAR(22) ISO 8601 – Date and time without seconds. See Appendix 2. Example: <i>2016-11-25T14:46+11:00</i>	NEW - Rationale: Needed (along with the <i>off_winfield</i>) to allow <i>td_receiving_vessel</i> , <i>td_re_pr_transhipped</i> and <i>td_re_pr_onboard</i> records to be correctly linked. Validation: Must be a recent earlier date/time, including the hours offset from UTC time. Note: Could be automatically generated by the submitters computer system at the moment that the declaration was sent.
The number of transhipped product records that are being submitted	<i>product_count</i>	INTEGER Example: 25 Must be 0 if no product was transhipped.	NEW - Rationale: Needed to ensure that product transhipped records have not been lost or duplicated in transmission. Note: Could be automatically generated by the submitters computer system at the moment that the declaration was sent.
The number of product already on-board records that are being submitted	<i>onboard_count</i>	INTEGER Example: 49 Must be 0 if no product was on-board before the transshipment started.	NEW - Rationale: Needed to ensure that product already on-board records have not been lost or duplicated in transmission. Note: Could be automatically generated by the submitters computer system at the moment that the declaration was sent.
The CCM responsible for reporting this transshipment	<i>reporting_ccm</i>	CHAR(2) Example: VU	NEW – A two letter code representing the CCM responsible for reporting the transshipment. Validation: Must be a valid CCM WCPFC alpha-2 two-letter Country Code.

A contact email address	<i>contact_email</i>	VARCHAR(50) Example: <i>a.carrier@gmail.com</i>	NEW - Rationale: An email address that WCPFC should use to (1) confirm receipt of this declaration and (2) contact if there are any problems with the quality / completeness of this declaration. Validation: Must be a valid email address.
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RECORD NAME: *td_re_pr_transhipped*

All of the fields listed below are required in each record. No field may be missing or null.

Information Required	Field Name	Field Format	Notes
The Receiving Vessel's WCPFC Identification Number (WIN)	<i>rec_win</i>	VARCHAR(16) Example: <i>DEF5678</i>	Reference: CMM2009-06, annex 1, para 3. Validation: Must be a valid WIN, on the date of transshipment, in the WCPFC Record of Fishing Vessels.
The date and time that the declaration was submitted	<i>submit_time</i>	VARCHAR(22) ISO 8601 – Date and time without seconds. See Appendix 2. Example: <i>2016-11-25T14:46+11:00</i>	NEW & DUPLICATE - Rationale: Needed (along with the <i>rec_win</i> field) to allow <i>td_receiving_vessel</i> records and <i>td_re_pr_transhipped</i> records to be correctly linked. Validation: Must have a matching entry in the <i>td_receiving_vessel</i> record.
The species that was transhipped	<i>species</i>	CHAR(3), Uppercase The three-letter FAO species code for the species. Example: <i>SKJ</i>	Reference: CMM2009-06, annex 1, para 5. Validation: Must be a valid three-letter FAO species code - www.fao.org/fishery/collection/asfis/en
The processed state of the transhipped fish	<i>processed_state</i>	CHAR(2), Uppercase Example: <i>WH</i>	Reference: CMM2009-06, annex 1, para 5. Validation: Must be a valid processed state code as found in Appendix 4.
Whether the transhipped fish was fresh or frozen	<i>fresh_frozen</i>	VARCHAR(6), containing the string "Fresh" or "Frozen"	Reference: CMM2009-06, annex 1, para 6.
The quantity of the product that was transhipped	<i>quantity_product</i>	FLOAT Example: <i>3.92</i>	Reference: CMM2009-06, annex 1, para 5. The weight of product transhipped, measured in metric tonnes.

RECORD NAME: *td_re_pr_onboard*

All of the fields listed below are required in each record. No field may be missing or null.

Information Required	Field Name	Field Format	Notes
The Receiving Vessel's WCPFC Identification Number (WIN)	<i>rec_win</i>	VARCHAR(16) Example: <i>DEF5678</i>	Reference: CMM2009-06, annex 1, para 3. Validation: Must be a valid WIN, on the date of transshipment, in the WCPFC Record of Fishing Vessels.
The date and time that the declaration was submitted	<i>submit_time</i>	VARCHAR(22) ISO 8601 – Date and time without seconds. See Appendix 2. Example: <i>2016-11-25T14:46+11:00</i>	NEW & DUPLICATE - Rationale: Needed (along with the <i>rec_win</i> field) to allow <i>td_receiving_vessel</i> records and <i>td_ov_product</i> records to be correctly linked. Validation: Must have a matching entry in the <i>td_receiving_vessel</i> record.
The species of the product that was on-board before the transshipment started	<i>species</i>	CHAR(3), Uppercase The three-letter FAO species code for the species. Example: <i>SKJ</i>	Reference: CMM2009-06, annex 1, para 11. Validation: Must be a valid three-letter FAO species code - www.fao.org/fishery/collection/asfis/en
The geographic origin (RFMO) of the product that was onboard before the transshipment started	<i>origin_loc</i>	VARCHAR(13), Uppercase Example: <i>WCPFC</i>	Reference: CMM2009-06, annex 1, para 11. Validation: Must be a valid RFMO Area code as found in Appendix 5.
The quantity of the product that was on-board before the transshipment started	<i>quantity_product</i>	FLOAT Example: <i>3.92</i>	Reference: CMM2009-06, annex 1, para 11. The weight of product on-board, measured in metric tonnes.

4.c Standards for cancelling a previously submitted e-report

<i>td_re_cancel</i>

It will be possible to use e-reporting to cancel a previously submitted Receiving Vessel Transshipment Declaration. For each Receiving Vessel Transshipment Declaration cancellation, there must be one *td_re_cancel* record.

RECORD NAME: <i>td_re_cancel</i> All of the fields listed below are required in each record. No field may contain missing or null values.			
Information Required	Field Name	Field Format	Notes
The Receiving Vessel's WCPFC Identification Number (WIN)	<i>rec_win</i>	VARCHAR(16) Example: <i>DEF5678</i>	Reference: CMM2009-06, annex 1, para 3. Validation: Must be a valid WIN, on the date of transshipment, in the WCPFC Record of Fishing Vessels.
The WCPFC Transshipment ID for the Receiving Vessel Transshipment Declaration that is being cancelled	<i>trans_id</i>	CHAR(16) Example: <i>FGYH7892ELPU3087</i>	Rationale: Needed to allow already submitted transshipment declarations to be amended. Validation: Must be a valid WCPFC Transshipment ID, for a transshipment declaration that had previously been made by the receiving vessel. Note: Will have been sent by the WCPFC to the contact email address when the Transshipment Declaration was first submitted.
A contact email address	<i>contact_email</i>	VARCHAR(50) Example: <i>a.carrier@gmail.com</i>	Rationale: An email address that WCPFC should use to (1) confirm receipt of this cancellation and (2) contact if there are any problems with the quality / completeness of this cancellation. Validation: Must be a valid email address.

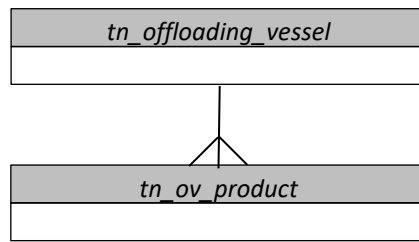
4.d Notes

For the e-reporting of Transshipment Declarations by Receiving Vessels:

1. the requirement for the receiving vessel to supply a “Unique Document Identifier” (CMM2009-06, annex 1, para 1) would be waived.
2. the requirement for the receiving vessel to supply the signature of a WCPFC observer (CMM2009-06, annex 1, para 10) would be waived.
3. the requirement for the receiving vessel to supply the fishing gear used to take the fish (CMM2009-06, annex 1, para 4) would be waived. The offloading vessel would still be required to supply this information.

5. OFFLOADING VESSEL HIGH SEAS TRANSHIPMENT NOTICES

5.a Standards for the structure of new or amended e-reports



For each Offloading Vessel Transshipment Notice, there must be:

- one *tn_offloading_vessel* record
- one *tn_ov_product* record for each combination of Species / Processed State / Fresh or Frozen / Location of Catch product that will be transhipped. For example, the information shown below would be represented by four *tn_ov_product* records.

Species	Processed State	Location of Catch	Quantity
ALB	Gutted & Headed	Cook Islands EEZ	1.25t
ALB	Gilled, Gutted & Tailed	Cook Islands EEZ	4.829t
ALB	Gilled, Gutted & Tailed	WCPFC High Seas	1.175t
BET	Gilled, Gutted & Tailed	WCPFC High Seas	3.678t

Any Offloading Vessel Transshipment Notice must be able to be uniquely identified by concatenating:

- the vessel's WCPFC WIN number; and
- the date and time that the notice was submitted.

The *tn_ov_product* records for a single transshipment must be able to be logically linked to the *tn_offloading_vessel* record for the same transshipment, using the concatenated offloading vessel's WIN number and date / time that the notice was submitted.

5.b Standards for the records and fields to be provided

RECORD NAME: <i>tn_offloading_vessel</i>			
All of the fields listed below are required in each record. No field may contain missing or null values.			
Information Required	Field Name	Field Format	Notes
The Offloading Vessel's WCPFC Identification Number (WIN)	<i>off_win</i>	VARCHAR(16) Example: <i>ABC1234</i>	Reference: CMM2009-06, annex 3, para 1. Validation: Must be a valid WIN, on the date of transshipment, in the WCPFC Record of Fishing Vessels.
The Offloading Vessel's Name	<i>off_vessel</i>	VARCHAR(64) Example: <i>Lucky Fisher III</i>	Reference: CMM2009-06, annex 3, para 1. Validation: Must be the vessel name which, in the WCPFC Record of Fishing Vessels, corresponds to the <i>off_win</i> provided.
The Receiving Vessel's WCPFC Identification Number (WIN)	<i>rec_win</i>	VARCHAR(16) Example: <i>DEF5678</i>	Reference: CMM2009-06, annex 3, para 2. Validation: Must be a valid WIN, on the date of transshipment, in the WCPFC Record of Fishing Vessels.
The Receiving Vessel's name	<i>rec_vessel</i>	VARCHAR(64) Example: <i>Super Hauler 2</i>	Reference: CMM2009-06, annex 3, para 2. Validation: Must be the vessel name which, in the WCPFC Record of Fishing Vessels, corresponds to the <i>rec_win</i> provided.
The date on which the transshipment is proposed to start	<i>prop_date</i>	VARCHAR(22) ISO8601, – UTC date or local datetime. See Appendix 2. Example: <i>2016-11-25Z</i> <i>2016-11-25T00:00+0700</i>	Reference: CMM2009-06, annex 1, para 9. Validation: Must be a date in the recent past. If a UTC date is used then this must include the "Z" suffix. If a local datetime is used then this must include the hours offset from UTC time as the suffix.
The location at which the transshipment is proposed to start	<i>prop_loc</i>	VARCHAR(13), Uppercase Example: <i>WCPFC-HS</i>	Reference: CMM2009-06, annex 3, para 5. Validation: Must be a valid location code as found in Appendix 3.
The latitude at which the transshipment is proposed to start	<i>prop_latitude</i>	CHAR(5) ISO6709, to the nearest 0.1 degree ±DD.D Example for Pohnpei Airport: <i>+07.0</i>	Reference: CMM2009-06, annex 3, para 5. Validation: Must be a valid latitude.

The longitude at which the transshipment is proposed to start	<i>prop_longitude</i>	CHAR(6) ISO6709, to the nearest 0.1 degree ±DDD.D Example for Pohnpei Airport: +158.2	Reference: CMM2009-06, annex 3, para 5. Validation: (1) Must be a valid longitude and (2) should, when considered along with the <i>prop_latitude</i> , represent a location that is at sea and within the <i>prop_loc</i> .
Whether this is a new transshipment notice, or an amendment to a previous transshipment declaration	<i>trans_id</i>	CHAR(16) Example: <i>New-Transshipment</i>	NEW - Rationale: Needed to allow already submitted transshipment declarations to be amended. Validation: In the case of new transshipment notices, must be "New-Transshipment". In the case of amendments to a previous transshipment notice, must be the Transshipment ID that the WCPFC sent to the contact email address when confirming receipt of the transshipment notice.
The date and time that the notice was submitted	<i>submit_time</i>	VARCHAR(22) ISO 8601 – Date and time without seconds. See Appendix 2. Example: <i>2016-11-25T14:46+11:00</i>	NEW - Rationale: Needed (along with the <i>off_winfield</i>) to allow <i>tn_offloading_vessel</i> records and <i>tn_ov_product</i> records to be correctly linked. Validation: Must be a recent earlier date/time, including the hours offset from UTC time. Note: Could be automatically generated by the submitters computer system at the moment that the declaration was sent.
The number of transhipped product records that are being submitted	<i>product_count</i>	INTEGER Example: 25	NEW - Rationale: Needed to ensure that product to be transhipped records have not been lost or duplicated in transmission. Note: Could be automatically generated by the submitters computer system at the moment that the declaration was sent.
The CCM responsible for reporting this transshipment	<i>reporting_ccm</i>	CHAR(2) Example: VU	NEW – A two letter code representing the CCM responsible for reporting the transshipment. Validation: Must be a valid CCM WCPFC alpha-2 two-letter Country Code.
A contact email address	<i>contact_email</i>	VARCHAR(50) Example: <i>a.fisher@gmail.com</i>	NEW - Rationale: An email address that WCPFC should use to (1) confirm receipt of this notice and (2) contact if there are any problems with the quality / completeness of this notice. Validation: Must be a valid email address.

RECORD NAME: *tn_ov_product*

All of the fields listed below are required in each record. No field may contain missing or null values.

Information Required	Field Name	Field Format	Notes
The Offloading Vessel's WCPFC Identification Number (WIN)	<i>off_win</i>	VARCHAR(16) Example: <i>ABC1234</i>	Reference: CMM2009-06, annex 3, para 1. Validation: Must be a valid WIN, on the date of transshipment, in the WCPFC Record of Fishing Vessels.
The date and time that the notice was submitted	<i>submit_time</i>	VARCHAR(22) ISO 8601 – Date and time without seconds. See Appendix 2. Example: <i>2016-11-25T14:46+11:00</i>	NEW & DUPLICATE - Rationale: Needed (along with the <i>off_win</i> field) to allow <i>td_offloading_vessel</i> records and <i>td_ov_product</i> records to be correctly linked. Validation: Must have a matching entry in the <i>td_offloading_vessel</i> record.
The species of the product that will be transhipped	<i>species</i>	CHAR(3), Uppercase The three-letter FAO species code for the species. Example: <i>SKJ</i>	Reference: CMM2009-06, annex 3, para 3. Validation: Must be a valid three-letter FAO species code - www.fao.org/fishery/collection/asfis/en
The processed state for the product that will be transhipped	<i>processed_state</i>	CHAR(2), Uppercase Example: <i>WH</i>	Reference: CMM2009-06, annex 3, para 3. Validation: Must be a valid processed state code as found in Appendix 4.
The geographic location of the catch	<i>catch_loc</i>	VARCHAR(13), Uppercase Example: <i>WCPFC-HS</i>	Reference: CMM2009-06, annex 3, para 6. Validation: Must be a valid location code as found in Appendix 3.
The quantity of the product that will be transhipped	<i>quantity_product</i>	FLOAT Example: <i>3.92</i>	Reference: CMM2009-06, annex 3, para 4. The weight of product to be transhipped, measured in metric tonnes.

5.c Standards for cancelling a previous e-report

<i>tn_ov_cancel</i>

It will be possible to use e-reporting to cancel a previously submitted Offloading Vessel Transhipment Notice. For each Offloading Vessel Transhipment Notice cancellation, there must be one *tn_ov_cancel* record.

RECORD NAME: <i>tn_ov_cancel</i> All of the fields listed below are required in each record. No field may contain missing or null values.			
Information Required	Field Name	Field Format	Notes
The Offloading Vessel's WCPFC Identification Number (WIN)	<i>off_win</i>	VARCHAR(16) Example: <i>ABC1234</i>	Reference: CMM2009-06, annex 3, para 1. Validation: Must be a valid WIN, on the date of transhipment, in the WCPFC Record of Fishing Vessels.
The WCPFC Transhipment ID for the Offloading Vessel Transhipment Notice that is being cancelled	<i>trans_id</i>	CHAR(16) Example: <i>FGYH7892ELPU3087</i>	Rationale: Needed to allow already submitted transhipment notices to be amended. Validation: Must be a valid WCPFC Transhipment ID, for a transhipment notice that had previously been made by the offloading vessel. Note: Will have been sent by the WCPFC to the contact email address when the Transhipment Notice was first submitted.
A contact email address	<i>contact_email</i>	VARCHAR(50) Example: <i>a.fisher@gmail.com</i>	Rationale: An email address that WCPFC should use to (1) confirm receipt of this cancellation and (2) contact if there are any problems with the quality / completeness of this cancellation. Validation: Must be a valid email address.

6. RECEIVING VESSEL HIGH SEAS TRANSHIPMENT NOTICES

6.a Standards for the structure of new or amended e-reports

<i>tn_receiving_vessel</i>

For each Receiving Vessel Transhipment Notice, there must be one *tn_receiving_vessel* record.

Any Receiving Vessel Transhipment Notice must be able to be uniquely identified by concatenating:

- the vessel's WCPFC WIN number; and
- the date and time that the notice was submitted.

6.b Standards for the records and fields to be provided

RECORD NAME: <i>tn_receiving_vessel</i>			
All of the fields listed below are required in each record. No field may contain missing or null values.			
Information Required	Field Name	Field Format	Notes
The Offloading Vessel's WCPFC Identification Number (WIN)	<i>off_win</i>	VARCHAR(16) Example: <i>ABC1234</i>	Reference: CMM2009-06, annex 3, para 1. Validation: Must be a valid WIN, on the date of transhipment, in the WCPFC Record of Fishing Vessels.
The Offloading Vessel's Name	<i>off_vessel</i>	VARCHAR(64) Example: <i>Lucky Fisher III</i>	Reference: CMM2009-06, annex 3, para 1. Validation: Must be the vessel name which, in the WCPFC Record of Fishing Vessels, corresponds to the <i>off_win</i> provided.
The Receiving Vessel's WCPFC Identification Number (WIN)	<i>rec_win</i>	VARCHAR(16) Example: <i>DEF5678</i>	Reference: CMM2009-06, annex 3, para 2. Validation: Must be a valid WIN, on the date of transhipment, in the WCPFC Record of Fishing Vessels.
The Receiving Vessel's name	<i>rec_vessel</i>	VARCHAR(64) Example: <i>Super Hauler 2</i>	Reference: CMM2009-06, annex 3, para 2. Validation: Must be the vessel name which, in the WCPFC Record of Fishing Vessels, corresponds to the <i>rec_win</i> provided.

The date on which the transshipment is proposed to start	<i>prop_date</i>	<p>VARCHAR(22)</p> <p>ISO8601, – UTC date or local datetime. See Appendix 2.</p> <p>Example:</p> <p>2016-11-25Z</p> <p>2016-11-25T00:00+0700</p>	<p>Reference: CMM2009-06, annex 1, para 9.</p> <p>Validation: Must be a date in the recent past. If a UTC date is used then this must include the “Z” suffix. If a local datetime is used then this must include the hours offset from UTC time as the suffix.</p>
The location at which the transshipment is proposed to start	<i>prop_loc</i>	<p>VARCHAR(13), Uppercase</p> <p>Example: WCPFC-HS</p>	<p>Reference: CMM2009-06, annex 3, para 5.</p> <p>Validation: Must be a valid location code as found in Appendix 3.</p>
The latitude at which the transshipment is proposed to start	<i>prop_latitude</i>	<p>CHAR(5)</p> <p>ISO6709, to the nearest 0.1 degree</p> <p>±DD.D</p> <p>Example for Pohnpei Airport: +07.0</p>	<p>Reference: CMM2009-06, annex 3, para 5.</p> <p>Validation: Must be a valid latitude.</p>
The longitude at which the transshipment is proposed to start	<i>prop_longitude</i>	<p>CHAR(6)</p> <p>ISO6709, to the nearest 0.1 degree</p> <p>±DDD.D</p> <p>Example for Pohnpei Airport: +158.2</p>	<p>Reference: CMM2009-06, annex 3, para 5.</p> <p>Validation: (1) Must be a valid longitude and (2) Should, when considered along with the <i>prop_latitude</i>, represent a location that is at sea and within the <i>prop_loc</i>.</p>
Whether this is a new transshipment notice, or an amendment to a previous transshipment notice	<i>trans_id</i>	<p>CHAR(16)</p> <p>Example:</p> <p><i>New-Transshipment</i></p>	<p>NEW - Rationale: Needed to allow already submitted transshipment notices to be amended.</p> <p>Validation: In the case of new transshipment notices, must be “New-Transshipment”. In the case of amendments to a previous transshipment notice, must be the Transshipment ID that the WCPFC sent to the contact email address when confirming receipt of the notice.</p>
The date and time that the notice was submitted	<i>submit_time</i>	<p>VARCHAR(22)</p> <p>ISO 8601 – Date and time without seconds. See Appendix 2.</p> <p>Example:</p> <p>2016-11-25T14:46+11:00</p>	<p>NEW - Rationale: Needed to ensure consistency with the standards documented in sections 3.b, 4.b, and 5.b.</p> <p>Validation: Must be a recent earlier date/time including the hours offset from UTC time.</p> <p>Note: Could be automatically generated by the submitters computer system at the moment that the declaration was sent.</p>

The CCM responsible for reporting this transshipment	<i>reporting_ccm</i>	CHAR(2) Example: VU	NEW – A two letter code representing the CCM responsible for reporting the transshipment. Validation: Must be a valid CCM WCPFC alpha-2 two-letter Country Code.
A contact email address	<i>contact_email</i>	VARCHAR(50) Example: <i>a.carrier@gmail.com</i>	NEW - Rationale: An email address that WCPFC should use to (1) confirm receipt of this notice and (2) contact if there are any problems with the quality / completeness of this notice. Validation: Must be a valid email address.

6.c Standards for cancelling a previous e-report

<i>tn_re_cancel</i>

It will be possible to use e-reporting to cancel a previously submitted Receiving Vessel Transhipment Notice. For each Receiving Vessel Transhipment Notice cancellation, there must be one *tn_re_cancel* record.

RECORD NAME: <i>tn_re_cancel</i>			
All of the fields listed below are required in each record. No field may contain missing or null values.			
Information Required	Field Name	Field Format	Notes
The Receiving Vessel's WCPFC Identification Number (WIN)	<i>rec_win</i>	VARCHAR(16) Example: DEF5678	Reference: CMM2009-06, annex 3, para 2. Validation: Must be a valid WIN, on the date of transhipment, in the WCPFC Record of Fishing Vessels.
The WCPFC Transhipment ID for the Receiving Vessel Transhipment Notice that is being cancelled	<i>trans_id</i>	CHAR(16) Example: FGYH7892ELPU3087	Rationale: Needed to allow already submitted transhipment notices to be amended. Validation: Must be a valid WCPFC Transhipment ID, for a transhipment notice that had previously been made by the receiving vessel. Note: Will have been sent by the WCPFC to the contact email address when the Transhipment Notice was first submitted.
A contact email address	<i>contact_email</i>	VARCHAR(50) Example: a.carrier@gmail.com	Rationale: An email address that WCPFC should use to (1) confirm receipt of this cancellation and (2) contact if there are any problems with the quality / completeness of this cancellation. Validation: Must be a valid email address.

6.d Notes

For the e-reporting of Transhipment Notices by receiving vessels:

- the requirement for the receiving vessel to supply information on the product to be transhipped (CMM2009-06, annex 3, para 3) would be waived. The offloading vessel would still be required to supply this information.

7. STANDARDS FOR THE TRANSMISSION OF TRANSHIPMENT E-REPORTS

Initially, JSON will be the format for data transmission. Subsequently, XML and FLUX will be added as formats for data transmission. Vessels, agents or CCMs wishing to e-report Transshipment Declarations and Transshipment Notices can choose which of these three formats they use.

Transmission Format Chosen	Standards
XML	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. There must be one XML Document for each Transshipment Declaration or Transshipment Notice being sent. 2. Within each XML Document, there must be one root element named "WCPFC_Transshipment". 3. Nested within the root element, for each record being transmitted there must be one 1st level element. These 1st level elements must have the appropriate Record Name, as defined in sections 3, 4, 5 and 6. 4. Nested within each 1st level element, for each field being transmitted there must be one 2nd level element. These 2nd level elements must have the appropriate Field Name, as defined in sections 3, 4, 5 and 6. 5. Each 2nd level element must contain text appropriate to its Field Name, and fulfilling the standards documented in sections 3, 4, 5 and 6.
JSON	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. There must be one JSON File for each Transshipment Declaration or Transshipment Notice being sent. 7. Within each JSON File, there must be one root object with the key "WCPFC_Transshipment". 8. The value of WCPFC_Transshipment must be a series of 1st level objects, one for each record being transmitted. 9. The keys for these 1st level objects must be the appropriate Record Names, as defined in sections 3, 4, 5 and 6. 10. The values of these 1st level objects must be a series of 2nd level objects, one for each field being transmitted. 11. The keys for these 2nd level objects must be the appropriate Field Names, as defined in sections 3, 4, 5 and 6. 12. Each 2nd level object must contain a value appropriate to its Field Name, and fulfilling the standards documented in sections 3, 4, 5 and 6.
FLUX	Details to be determined in 2019.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 – TRANSHIPMENT FISHING GEAR CODES

Fishing Gear	Code
With purse lines (purse seine)	PS
- one boat operated purse seines	PS1
- two boat operated purse seines	PS2
Without purse lines (lampara)	LA
Beach seines	SB
Boat or vessel seines	SV
- Danish seines	SDN
- Scottish seines	SSC
- Pair seines	SPR
Seine nets (not specified)	SX
Portable lift nets	LNP
Boat-operated lift nets	LNB
Shore-operated stationary lift nets	LNS
Lift nets (not specified)	LN
Set gillnets (anchored)	GNS
Driftnets	GND
Encircling gillnets	GNC
Fixed gillnets (on stakes)	GNF
Trammel nets	GTR
Combined gillnets-trammel nets	GTN
Gillnets and entangling nets (not specified)	GEN
Gillnets (not specified)	GN
Handlines and pole-lines (hand operated)	LHP

Handlines and pole-lines (mechanized)	LHM
Set longlines	LLS
Drifting longlines	LLD
Longlines (not specified)	LL
Trolling lines	LTL
Hooks and lines (not specified)	LX
Harpoons	HAR
Miscellaneous gear	MIS
Recreational fishing gear	RG

Notes:

- these are the same gear codes contained in Attachment 6 of CMM2014-03 (Standards, Specifications and Procedures for the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission Record of Fishing Vessels).
- the Commission may update its Transshipment Fishing Gear Codes at any time. When this occurs, the most recent Transshipment Fishing Gear Codes that have been approved by the Commission must be used.

APPENDIX 2 – DATE/TIME FORMAT

DATE and DATE/TIME fields must adhere to the ISO8601 standard formats listed in the table below.

For fields requiring	Use the format	Example
Date (UTC)	[YYYY]-[MM]-[DD] Z	2016-06-23Z
Date/time (UTC)	[YYYY]-[MM]-[DD]T[HH]:[MM]Z	2016-06-23T20:32Z
Date/time (Local)	[YYYY]-[MM]-[DD]T[HH]:[MM]±[HH]:[MM]	2016-06-23T20:32+11:00 (Note, this example illustrates a datetime in the Pohnpei time zone)

APPENDIX 3 – TRANSHIPMENT LOCATION CODES

Location	Code
EEZ of American Samoa	EEZ-ASM
EEZ of Australia	EEZ-AUS
EEZ of Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands	EEZ-MNP
EEZ of Cook Islands	EEZ-COK
EEZ of Federated States of Micronesia	EEZ-FSM
EEZ of Fiji	EEZ-FJI
EEZ of French Polynesia	EEZ-PYF
EEZ of Guam	EEZ-GUM
EEZ of Indonesia	EEZ-IDN
EEZ of Japan	EEZ-JPN
EEZ of Kiribati	EEZ-KIR
EEZ of Nauru	EEZ-NRU
EEZ of New Caledonia	EEZ-NCL
EEZ of New Zealand	EEZ-NZL
EEZ of Niue	EEZ-NIU
EEZ of Palau	EEZ-PLW
EEZ of Papua New Guinea	EEZ-PNG
EEZ of Philippines	EEZ-PHL
EEZ of Republic of Marshall Islands	EEZ-MHL
EEZ of Samoa	EEZ-WSM
EEZ of Solomon Islands	EEZ-SLB
EEZ of Tokelau	EEZ-TKL
EEZ of Tonga	EEZ-TON
EEZ of Tuvalu	EEZ-TUV

EEZ of United States of America	EEZ-USA
EEZ of Vanuatu	EEZ-VUT
EEZ of Wallis and Futuna	EEZ-WLF
WCPFC Convention Area on the High Seas	WCPFC-HS
WCPFC/IATTC Overlap Area	Overlap
Outside the Convention Area	Outside WCPFC

Note

- these are the same locations listed in the footnotes to CMM2009-06, Annex I and Annex III; although the codes have been developed for this standard.
- the Commission may update its Transshipment Location Codes at any time. When this occurs, the most recent Transshipment Location Codes that have been approved by the Commission must be used.

APPENDIX 4 – TRANSHIPMENT PROCESSED STATE CODES

Processed State	Code
Whole	WH
Gutted and Headed	GH
Gutted, Headed and Tailed	GT
Gutted Only, not Gilled	GO
Gilled and Gutted	LG
Gilled, Gutted and Tailed	LT
Shark Fins	SF
Filletted	FL
Other, not listed above	OT

Note that the Commission may update its Transshipment Processed State Codes at any time. When this occurs, the most recent Transshipment Processed State Codes that have been approved by the Commission must be used.

APPENDIX 5 – TRANSHIPMENT RFMO AREA CODES

Location	Code
Within the WCPFC Convention Area	WCPFC
WCPFC/IATTC Overlap Area	Overlap
Within the IOTC Agreement Area	IOTC
Within the IATTC Convention Area	IATTC
Within the ICCAT Convention Area	ICCAT
Outside Tuna RFMOs	Outside TRFMO

Note that the Commission may update its Transshipment RFMO Area Codes at any time. When this occurs, the most recent Transshipment RFMO Area Codes that have been approved by the Commission must be used.

---END---



**COMMISSION
FIFTEENTH REGULAR SESSION**
Honolulu, Hawaii, USA
10 – 14 December 2018

FINAL COMPLIANCE MONITORING REPORT

**WCPFC15-2018-FinalCMR
11 December 2018**

ADOPTED

**2018 FINAL COMPLIANCE MONITORING REPORT
(COVERING 2017 ACTIVITIES)**

Executive Summary

I. INTRODUCTION

1. WCPFC15 undertook its eighth annual review of compliance by CCMs against an updated priority list of Commission obligations agreed to at WCPFC14 for 2018.
2. WCPFC15 and TCC14 conducted their review in accordance with the extended Compliance Monitoring Scheme (CMS) adopted at WCPFC14 – CMM 2017-07.
3. Consistent with recent versions of the CMS, the current CMS does not require an overall assessment of each CCM, but only asks WCPFC to identify a compliance assessment for each specific obligation.
4. In accordance with Annex I of the CMS CMM, the following statuses were considered in making the assessments: Compliant, Non-Compliant, Priority Non-Compliant, Capacity Assistance Needed, Flag State Investigation and CMM Review.

II. DEVELOPMENT OF THE PROVISIONAL COMPLIANCE MONITORING REPORT BY TCC14

5. TCC14 reviewed the draft Compliance Monitoring Report (draft CMR) for thirty-seven (37) CCMs and one (1) collective group of Members in a closed working group session. The draft CMR is classified as non-public domain data and some CCMs were not able to agree to release their non-public domain data, therefore the decision was made to close the session. There continues to be interest among some CCMs and Observers (who were not able to attend the closed session) in finding a way to address the confidentiality concerns of CCMs so that Observers can more fully and effectively participate in the CMS. It was noted that this should be part of the discussion on the revised CMS CMM.

III. COMPLIANCE REVIEW PROCESS AND ASSESSMENTS

6. TCC14 agreed to a CMR Review Process in advance of conducting its review (WCPFC-TCC14-2018-09).
7. Consistent with its practice last year, TCC14 received reports from CCMs on the progress of capacity development plans and flag state investigations. The outcomes are in the tables below.

CMM	Capacity Assistance Needed (CMR RY2016) Ongoing	Capacity Assistance Needed (CMR RY2016) Completed
2014-02 9a VMS SSPs 7.2.2		Tuvalu
SciData 03	Indonesia ¹	

¹ Indonesia noted that the work under this Capacity Development Plan is intended to be conducted in 2019, subject to funding being available.

CMM	Flag State Investigation (CMR RY2015) Ongoing	Flag State Investigation (CMR RY2015) Completed
2007-01, para 14 (vii)	China, Japan, Korea, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Chinese Taipei	Marshall Islands, Papua New Guinea
2010-07, para 9	China, Korea, Philippines	
2013-08, para 1	China, Japan, Korea, Philippines, Chinese Taipei	
2014-01, para 14	Japan, Philippines, Chinese Taipei	Marshall Islands

CMM	Flag State Investigation (CMR RY2016) Ongoing	Flag State Investigation (CMR RY2016) Completed
2007-01, para 14 (vii)	China, Japan, Korea, Philippines, Chinese Taipei	Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Papua New Guinea
2010-07, para 9	Japan, Kiribati, Korea, Philippines	
2011-03, para 1	China, Japan, Korea, Philippines, Chinese Taipei, United States	Solomon Islands, Tuvalu
2012-04, para 1	China, Japan, Philippines, Chinese Taipei	Kiribati, Solomon Islands
2015-01, para 16		Solomon Islands

8. TCC14 noted that although there has been improvement in the ability of flag CCMs to obtain observer reports relevant to investigate alleged violations, there is clear need for improvement both in the way that some flag CCMs request information and the response from some observer providers, so that flag CCMs can complete investigations. TCC14 urged flag CCMs and ROP observer providers to engage while here at TCC and in the margins of other meetings to facilitate the provision of observer reports.

9. TCC14 noted that the practice of limiting verbal interventions to clarifications was useful in streamlining the CMS process at TCC.

10. There were two obligations that WCPFC15 was not able to assess due to a lack of consensus as to the compliance status. Therefore, these obligations are noted as not assessed.

- a. CMM 2016-04, para 3(2) – WCPFC15 took no assessment for Japan. The difference of opinion relates to the reporting period for the measure.
- b. CMM 2016-01, para 22 – WCPFC15 took no assessment for the Philippines.

11. There were some obligations that WCPFC15 assessed as CMM Review. The CMS working group noted that in some cases, such as in relation to CMM 2016-01, the obligations in question have already been revised in CMM 2017-01, but encourages the Commission to consider whether additional revision is needed to resolve the difficulties in assessment. WCPFC15 assessed the following obligations as CMM Review:

- a. CMM 2014-02, para 4
- b. CMM 2016-01, paras 14, 16 and 18

12. As noted in the paper on the CMR Review Process, WCPFC-TCC14-2018-09, there were a number of alleged violations from 2015 and 2016 that were not included in last year’s CMS because the information came in after the CMS was completed. WCPFC15 and TCC14 reviewed the outstanding alleged violations from 2015 and 2016. The table below reflects the status of that review.

CMM	Non-Compliant	Flag State Investigation (RY 2015² and 2016)	Compliant
CMM 2007-01, para 14 vii	Chinese Taipei	China, Korea	Marshall Islands, Papua New Guinea, United States, Vanuatu
CMM 2011-03, para 1	Philippines, Solomon Islands, Chinese Taipei	China, Federated States of Micronesia, Japan, Kiribati, Korea, Papua New Guinea, United States	Marshall Islands, Tuvalu
CMM 2012-04, para 1	Philippines, Solomon Islands, Chinese Taipei	China, Federated States of Micronesia, Japan, Korea, Papua New Guinea, United States	European Union, Marshall Islands
CMM 2013-08, para 1		Korea, Papua New Guinea	Tuvalu
CMM 2014-01, para 14		Japan	
CMM 2015-01, para 14	Philippines, Chinese Taipei	Korea, United States	

13. As noted in the paper outlining the TCC CMR process (WCPFC-TCC14-2018-09), and consistent with the recommendation from TCC13 and the decision from WCPFC14, WCPFC15 and TCC14 did not consider the information contained in the ROP Pre-notification List for the purpose of assessing any obligations for which it was relevant.

14. Consistent with the Final Compliance Monitoring Reports from 2012 – 2017, CCMs evaluated as “non-compliant” for obligations are strongly encouraged to address their implementation issues even without a response procedure.

IV. ISSUES RELATED TO SPECIFIC CMMs OR OTHER OBLIGATIONS

15. The European Union expressed concerns over the process on reporting back on ongoing Flag State Investigations and suggested that criteria should be developed for this process. The PNA noted that they would like to eliminate the entire Flag State Investigation process.

16. Canada and China noted that CMM 2005-03 (North Pacific Albacore), paragraph 3, will be considered at NC15 in 2019 to change reporting from every 6 months to annually for all CCMs. The proposed revision will bring the CMM’s reporting requirement into alignment with the recently revised IATTC resolution on the same issue. The proposed revision is advanced in the absence of any

² All Flag State Investigation assessments are related to RY2016, except CMM 2014-01 14 applied in RY2015.

apparent scientific benefit for 6-month reporting.

17. WCPFC15 and TCC14 noted with concern that despite some improvement some CCMs still do not comply with the requirement under CMM 2007-01 Attachment K Annex C paragraph 6 (minimum 5% ROP longline coverage rate).

18. There was a discussion about whether a WCPFC14 decision regarding reports against CMM 2009-06 (transshipment), paragraph 13 was binding. The Legal Advisor noted that decisions of the Commission could be binding (if the language so indicated), but that the WCPFC decision regarding reports against paragraph 13 of CMM 2009-06 was not included in the items against which CCMs would be assessed this year. Some CCMs recommended that the Commission clarify the specific case of Philippines vessels that operate in the high seas pocket related to this measure.

19. The European Union expressed concern that TCC was not assessing paragraph 7 of CMM 2010-07 (Sharks) in conjunction with paragraph 9 of the same CMM, and requested that this is included in the future assessments of this measure.

20. For CMM 2011-04 (Oceanic Whitetip Sharks), FFA members raised a concern about their members being assessed for data inconsistencies with numbers that had been revised since the submission of their Annual Reports. FFA members noted that CCMs should be assessed as compliant where they have provided all available data at the time of submission, even if new data comes in later.

21. The United States and the European Union expressed concern that we were not assessing paragraph 1 of CMM 2011-04 and noted it should be included in future assessments of this measure.

22. Paragraph 4 of CMM 2014-02 (Vessel Monitoring System) was deemed CMM Review, but Japan and the United States thought that this paragraph may be obsolete and suggests the Commission consider revising this measure to remove or revise this paragraph.

23. TCC14 noted that unlike last year, this year TCC14 was able to take assessments against CMM 2014-02, paragraphs 9a and SSPs 2.8. TCC14 noted that in 2017 and 2018, the Secretariat was making improvements to the VMS and that while these improvements are in process, assessments remain challenging.

24. The United States highlighted the importance of CMM 2015-02 (South Pacific Albacore) and noted the need for a rigorous and more meaningful review of this measure in future years, and that WCPFC-TCC14-2018-IP14 reveals a dramatic increase in the number of fishing vessels of certain CCMs actively fishing for South Pacific albacore south of 20S since the measure was first adopted in 2005. Australia and New Zealand noted that the paper WCPFC-TCC14-2018-IP14 from SPC on South Pacific Albacore is very informative and is the kind of information they would like to see every year, as it shows that we are clearly not yet hitting the mark with this measure.

25. As noted in paragraph 12 above, paragraphs 14, 16 and 18 of CMM 2016-01 were deemed CMM Review. CCMs noted that these paragraphs have been revised in CMM 2017-01, but encourages the Commission to review these paragraphs in any revised measure to ensure they are more easily able to be assessed in the future. CCMs also noted that our inability to assess these paragraphs impacts

our ability to evaluate the effectiveness of this measure.

26. China noted the need for increased clarity relating to charters in relation to CMM 2016-01 and subsequent versions of this measure.

V. REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE AND CAPACITY BUILDING

27. Several areas were identified where targeted assistance is required to assist SIDS and other CCMs in implementing specific obligations.

CMM	Obligation	CMR section ³	CCM	Capacity Assistance Needed Score
5% ROP Observer Coverage rate	CMM 2007-01 Att K Annex C	v		Kiribati– Capacity Assistance Needed (CMR RY 2017)
CMM 2011-03 Cetaceans	CMM 2011-03 02 - 03		Cook Islands Vanuatu	
CMM 2013-08 Silky Sharks	CMM 2013-08 01		Cook Islands	
CMM 2014-02 VMS	CMM 2014-02 9a CMM 2014-02 9a VMS SSPs 2.8	v		New Caledonia – Capacity Assistance Needed (CMR RY 2017)
Scientific data provision	Scidata 03	vi	Indonesia	Indonesia – Capacity Assistance Needed (CMR RY 2016 and CMR RY 2017)

28. Some areas of capacity assistance were identified by certain CCMs in their Annual Report Part 2 covering RY 2017 that were outside the scope of the list of obligations to be assessed in the CMS in 2018.

³ CMM 2017-07 paragraph 3: (i) catch and effort limits for target species; (ii) catch and effort reporting for target species; (iii) reporting including with respect to implementation of measures for non-target species; (iv) spatial and temporal closures, and restrictions on the use of fish aggregating devices; (v) authorizations to fish and the Record of Fishing Vessels, observer, VMS coverage, transshipment and the High Seas Boarding and Inspection Scheme; (vi) provision of scientific data through the Part 1 Annual Report (and its addendum) and the Scientific Data to be provided to the Commission; and (vii) submission of the Part II Annual Report, including compliance with the obligations in paragraph 36, and compliance with other Commission reporting deadlines.

CMM	Notes about types of assistance requested	CCM
CMM 2006-08 - High Seas Boarding and Inspection CMM 2017-02 - Port Inspections	Some assistance has been received in work attachments, and supply of boarding gear. Additional assistance is needed in 1) information system (licensing and permitting database); 2) boarding and inspection database; 3) centralized database; 4) more staff for monitoring and data collection.	Fiji
CMM 2013-07 04-05 - Capacity development for personnel	Some assistance has been received in investigation training. Additional training is needed, including in work attachments, for database and data analysis. Assistance is needed in understanding CMMs. Need additional observer training and coordination Funding for international meetings	Fiji Solomon Islands Vanuatu
CMM 2013-07 10-11 - Capacity development for MCS activities	Some assistance has been received in investigation training and attachments. Additional resources needed for purchase of additional patrol assets (helicopters/aircraft and vessels). Assistance is needed to conduct international compliance inspections Assistance and support is needed to recognize the efforts that small islands with limited capacity make to comply with all CMMs and to investigate any alleged infringements by their vessels or occurring in their waters.	Fiji Kiribati
CMM 2017-06 - Seabird mitigation	Assistance in developing of seabird mitigation plan	Vanuatu

Appendix 1: 2018 Final CMR Matrix covering 2017 activities

Row Labels	AU	CA	CK	CN	EC	EU	Fiji	FM	FR	ID	JP	KI	KR	LR	MH	MX	NC	NR	NU	NZ	PA	PF	PG	PH	PNAO	PW	SB	SV	TH	TK	TO	TV	TW	US	VN	VU	WF	WS	Total # of applicable CCMs assessed	# of Non-Compliance (Red/Yellow)	% of Non-Compliance					
i	Compliant					Compliant														Compliant			Compliant																4	0	0%					
CMM 2016-01 44				Compliant						Compliant	Compliant		Compliant																											6	1	17%				
ii				Compliant						Compliant	Compliant		Compliant																											6	2	33%				
CMM 2016-01 47										Compliant	Compliant																													3	0	0%				
ii										Compliant	Compliant																													3	0	0%				
CMM 2016-01 49										Compliant	Compliant									Compliant								Compliant													12	0	0%			
CMM 2016-01 50				Compliant						Compliant	Compliant																													6	0	0%				
iii				Compliant						Compliant	Compliant																													9	0	0%				
CMM 2016-01 52				Compliant						Compliant	Compliant																													5	0	0%				
CMM 2016-01 57				Compliant						Compliant	Compliant																													5	0	0%				
iii				Compliant						Compliant	Compliant																													6	0	0%				
CMM 2016-01 59				Compliant						Compliant	Compliant																													6	0	0%				
CMM 2016-01 Att C 03																																									1	1	100%			
ii																								Capacity Assistance Needed																	1	0	0%			
vii																																								1	0	0%				
CMM 2016-01 Att C 05-06																																									1	0	0%			
v																																									1	0	0%			
CMM 2016-01 Att C 08																																									1	0	0%			
ii																																									1	0	0%			
CMM 2016-01 Att C 10																																									1	0	0%			
i																																									1	0	0%			
CMM 2016-04 03 (1)																																										8	0	0%		
i	Compliant	Compliant		Compliant						Compliant	Compliant																														8	1	13%			
CMM 2016-04 03 (2)				Compliant						Compliant	Compliant																															8	0	0%		
i	Compliant	Compliant		Compliant						Compliant	Compliant																															8	0	0%		
CMM 2016-04 06				Compliant						Compliant	Compliant																																10	0	0%	
ii	Compliant	Compliant	Compliant	Compliant		Compliant				Compliant	Compliant																															11	0	0%		
CMM 2016-04 12				Compliant						Compliant	Compliant																																10	0	0%	
ii	Compliant	Compliant	Compliant	Compliant		Compliant				Compliant	Compliant																																11	0	0%	
SciData 01				Compliant						Compliant	Compliant																																27	0	0%	
vi	Compliant	Compliant	Compliant	Compliant		Compliant				Compliant	Compliant																																27	0	0%	
vii	Compliant	Compliant	Compliant	Compliant		Compliant				Compliant	Compliant																																	27	0	0%
SciData 02				Compliant						Compliant	Compliant																																	25	0	0%
vi	Compliant	Compliant	Compliant	Compliant		Compliant				Compliant	Compliant																																25	0	0%	
vii	Compliant	Compliant	Compliant	Compliant		Compliant				Compliant	Compliant																																25	0	0%	
SciData 03				Compliant						Compliant	Compliant																																	26	0	0%
vi	Compliant	Compliant	Compliant	Compliant		Compliant				Compliant	Compliant																																25	0	0%	
vii	Compliant	Compliant	Compliant	Compliant		Compliant				Compliant	Compliant																																25	0	0%	
SciData 05				Compliant						Compliant	Compliant																																	29	0	0%
vi	Compliant	Compliant	Compliant	Compliant		Compliant				Compliant	Compliant																																29	1	3%	
vii	Compliant	Compliant	Compliant	Compliant		Compliant				Compliant	Compliant																																29	1	3%	

■ Compliant
 ■ Non Compliant
 ■ Priority Non-Compliant
 ■ Not Assessed
 ■ Capacity Assistance Needed
 ■ Flag State Investigation
■ CMM Review

Appendix 2: 2018 Final Compliance and Monitoring Report (for 2017 activities)

CMM/Data Provision	Compliance or Implementation Status					2 nd , 3 rd , 4 th , 5 th , 6 th , 7 th or 8 th Year with a Potential Compliance Issue
	Compliant	Non-Compliant	Priority Non-Compliant	Capacity Assistance Needed	Flag State Investigation	
<i>CMM 2005-03: North Pacific Albacore</i>						
<i>Para (2)</i>	Canada, China, Japan, Philippines, Chinese Taipei, United States		Korea			
<i>Para (3)</i>	China, Fiji, Federated States of Micronesia, Japan, Kiribati, Korea, Marshall Islands, Philippines, Tuvalu, Chinese Taipei, United States, Vanuatu	Canada				
<i>Para (3) (reporting deadline)</i>	Canada, China, Fiji, Federated States of Micronesia, Japan, Kiribati, Korea, Marshall Islands, Philippines, Tuvalu, Chinese Taipei, United States, Vanuatu					
<i>Para (4)</i>	Canada, China, Fiji, Federated States of Micronesia, Japan, Kiribati, Korea, Chinese Taipei, Tuvalu, United States, Vanuatu					

CMM/Data Provision	Compliance or Implementation Status					2 nd , 3 rd , 4 th , 5 th , 6 th , 7 th or 8 th Year with a Potential Compliance Issue
	Compliant	Non-Compliant	Priority Non-Compliant	Capacity Assistance Needed	Flag State Investigation	
<i>CMM 2007-01: Regional Observer Programme</i>						
<i>Para (10)</i>	Australia, Cook Islands, China, Ecuador, European Union, Fiji, Federated States of Micronesia, Indonesia, Japan, Kiribati, Korea, Liberia, Marshall Islands, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Solomon Islands, El Salvador, Tuvalu, Chinese Taipei, United States, Vanuatu					
<i>Para (14) (vii)</i>	Australia, Cook Islands, Ecuador, European Union, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Indonesia, Kiribati Liberia, Marshall Islands, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Panama, Philippines, Solomon Islands, El Salvador, Tuvalu, Vanuatu				China, Japan, Korea, Chinese Taipei, United States	

	Compliance or Implementation Status					2 nd , 3 rd , 4 th , 5 th , 6 th , 7 th or 8 th Year with a Potential Compliance Issue
CMM/Data Provision	Compliant	Non-Compliant	Priority Non- Compliant	Capacity Assistance Needed	Flag State Investigation	
<i>Att K, Annex C, Para (6)</i>	Cook Islands, European Union, Fiji, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Chinese Taipei Tuvalu, United States	Korea	China, Federated States of Micronesia, Japan, , Vanuatu	Kiribati		China [3], Federated States of Micronesia [6], Japan [5], Vanuatu[4]
<i>Att K, Annex C, Para (6) (reporting deadline)</i>	Cook Islands, European Union, Fiji, Federated States of Micronesia, Japan, Kiribati, Korea, Marshall Islands, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Philippines, Tuvalu, Chinese Taipei, United States, Vanuatu		China			China [2]
CMM 2009-06: Transshipment						
<i>Para (11)</i>	China, Ecuador, European Union, Fiji, Federated States of Micronesia, Japan, Korea, Kiribati, Liberia, Marshall Islands, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, El Salvador, Chinese Taipei, Tuvalu, United States	Solomon Islands,	Panama, Vanuatu			Panama[6], Vanuatu [5]

	Compliance or Implementation Status					2 nd , 3 rd , 4 th , 5 th , 6 th , 7 th or 8 th Year with a Potential Compliance Issue
CMM/Data Provision	Compliant	Non-Compliant	Priority Non- Compliant	Capacity Assistance Needed	Flag State Investigation	
<i>Para (11) (reporting deadline)</i>	China, Ecuador, European Union, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Japan, Kiribati, Korea, Liberia, Marshall Islands, New Zealand, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, Chinese Taipei, United States, Vanuatu	El Salvador				
<i>Para (13)</i>	China, Fiji, Japan, Korea, Liberia, Panama, Philippines, Chinese Taipei, United States, Vanuatu					
<i>Para (29)</i>	Australia, China, Ecuador, European Union, Federated States of Micronesia, Indonesia, Japan, Kiribati, Korea, Marshall Islands, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Solomon Islands, El Salvador, Chinese Taipei, Tuvalu, United States, Vanuatu					

CMM/Data Provision	Compliance or Implementation Status					2 nd , 3 rd , 4 th , 5 th , 6 th , 7 th or 8 th Year with a Potential Compliance Issue
	Compliant	Non-Compliant	Priority Non-Compliant	Capacity Assistance Needed	Flag State Investigation	
<i>Para (34)</i>	China, Fiji, Japan, Korea, Liberia, Panama, Philippines, Chinese Taipei, Thailand, United States, Vanuatu					
<i>Para (35) (a) (ii)</i>	China, Fiji, Japan, Korea, Liberia, Panama, Philippines, Thailand, Chinese Taipei, United States, Vanuatu					
<i>Para (35) (a) (iii)</i>	China, Fiji, Japan, Korea, Liberia, Philippines, Chinese Taipei, United States		Panama, Vanuatu			Panama[3], Vanuatu[3]
<i>Para (35) (a) (iii) (reporting deadline)</i>	Fiji, Korea, Philippines, United States		China, Japan, Liberia, Panama, Chinese Taipei, Vanuatu			China [5], Japan [5], Liberia [2], Panama[3], Chinese Taipei [2], Vanuatu [4]
<i>Para (35) (a) (iv)</i>	China, Fiji, Japan, Korea, Liberia, Philippines, Chinese Taipei, United States		Panama, Vanuatu			Panama[4], Vanuatu[3]

CMM/Data Provision	Compliance or Implementation Status					2 nd , 3 rd , 4 th , 5 th , 6 th , 7 th or 8 th Year with a Potential Compliance Issue
	Compliant	Non-Compliant	Priority Non-Compliant	Capacity Assistance Needed	Flag State Investigation	
<i>Para (35) (a) (iv) (reporting deadline)</i>	Fiji, Philippines, United States	Korea	China, Japan, Liberia, Panama, Chinese Taipei, Vanuatu			China [4], Japan [2], Liberia [2], Panama [2], Chinese Taipei [4], Vanuatu [4]
<i>CMM 2010-01: North Pacific Striped Marlin</i>						
<i>Para 5</i>	China, European Union, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Philippines, Chinese Taipei, United States					
<i>Para 8</i>	China, European Union, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Philippines, Chinese Taipei, United States					

CMM/Data Provision	Compliance or Implementation Status					2 nd , 3 rd , 4 th , 5 th , 6 th , 7 th or 8 th Year with a Potential Compliance Issue
	Compliant	Non-Compliant	Priority Non-Compliant	Capacity Assistance Needed	Flag State Investigation	
<i>CMM 2010-07: Shark</i>						
<i>Para (9)</i>	Australia, Canada, Cook Islands, China, Ecuador, European Union, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Indonesia, Japan, Kiribati, Liberia, Marshall Islands, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Panama, French Polynesia, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, El Salvador, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, United States, Vanuatu				Korea, Chinese Taipei	
<i>Para (12) (reporting deadline)</i>	Australia, Canada, China, Cook Islands, Ecuador, European Union, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Indonesia, Japan, Kiribati, Korea, Marshall Islands, New Caledonia, New Zealand, French Polynesia, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Thailand, Tonga, Tuvalu, Chinese Taipei, United States, Vanuatu	El Salvador, Liberia	Panama			Panama [2]

CMM/Data Provision	Compliance or Implementation Status					2 nd , 3 rd , 4 th , 5 th , 6 th , 7 th or 8 th Year with a Potential Compliance Issue
	Compliant	Non-Compliant	Priority Non-Compliant	Capacity Assistance Needed	Flag State Investigation	
<i>CMM 2011-04: Oceanic Whitetip</i>						
<i>Para (3)</i>	Australia, Cook Islands, China, Ecuador, European Union, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Indonesia, Japan, Kiribati, Korea, Marshall Islands, New Caledonia, New Zealand, French Polynesia, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, El Salvador, Tonga, Chinese Taipei, Tuvalu, United States	Vanuatu				
<i>Para (3) (reporting deadline)</i>	Australia, Cook Islands, China, Ecuador, European Union, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Indonesia, Japan, Kiribati, Korea, Marshall Islands, New Caledonia, New Zealand, French Polynesia, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Chinese Taipei, United States, Vanuatu	El Salvador				

CMM/Data Provision	Compliance or Implementation Status					2 nd , 3 rd , 4 th , 5 th , 6 th , 7 th or 8 th Year with a Potential Compliance Issue
	Compliant	Non-Compliant	Priority Non-Compliant	Capacity Assistance Needed	Flag State Investigation	
<i>CMM 2013-08: Silky Sharks</i>						
<i>Para (1)</i>	Australia, Canada, Cook Islands, Ecuador, European Union, Fiji, Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Liberia, Marshall Islands, New Caledonia, New Zealand, French Polynesia, Papua New Guinea, El Salvador, Solomon Islands, Thailand, Tonga, Tuvalu, United States, Vanuatu		Indonesia, Panama,		China, Japan, Korea, Philippines, Chinese Taipei,	
<i>Para (3)</i>	Australia, Cook Islands, China, Ecuador, European Union, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Indonesia, Japan, Kiribati, Korea, Marshall Islands, New Caledonia, New Zealand, French Polynesia, Papua New Guinea, Palau, Philippines, Samoa Solomon Islands, El Salvador, Tonga, Tuvalu, Chinese Taipei, United States, Vanuatu					

	Compliance or Implementation Status					2 nd , 3 rd , 4 th , 5 th , 6 th , 7 th or 8 th Year with a Potential Compliance Issue
CMM/Data Provision	Compliant	Non-Compliant	Priority Non- Compliant	Capacity Assistance Needed	Flag State Investigation	
<i>Para (3) (reporting deadline)</i>	Australia, Cook Islands, China, Ecuador, European Union, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Indonesia, Japan, Kiribati, Korea, Marshall Islands, New Caledonia, New Zealand, French Polynesia, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Chinese Taipei, United States, Vanuatu	El Salvador				
<i>CMM 2013-10: Record of Fishing Vessels</i>						
<i>Para (2)</i>	Australia, Canada, Cook Islands, China, Ecuador, European Union, Fiji, Federated States of Micronesia, Indonesia, Japan, Kiribati, Korea, Liberia, Marshall Islands, New Caledonia, New Zealand, French Polynesia, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Solomon Islands, El Salvador, Thailand, Tonga,					

	Compliance or Implementation Status					2 nd , 3 rd , 4 th , 5 th , 6 th , 7 th or 8 th Year with a Potential Compliance Issue
CMM/Data Provision	Compliant	Non-Compliant	Priority Non- Compliant	Capacity Assistance Needed	Flag State Investigation	
	Tuvalu, Chinese Taipei, United States, Vanuatu					
<i>Para (3)</i>	Australia, Canada, Cook Islands, China, Ecuador, European Union, Fiji, Federated States of Micronesia, Indonesia, Japan, Kiribati, Korea, Liberia, Marshall Islands, New Caledonia, New Zealand, French Polynesia, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Solomon Islands, El Salvador, Thailand, Chinese Taipei, Tonga, Tuvalu, United States, Vanuatu					
<i>Para (4)</i>	Australia, Canada, China, Cook Islands, Ecuador, European Union, Fiji, Federated States of Micronesia, Indonesia, Japan, Kiribati, Korea, Liberia, Marshall Islands, New Caledonia, New Zealand, French Polynesia, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Philippines,					

	Compliance or Implementation Status					2 nd , 3 rd , 4 th , 5 th , 6 th , 7 th or 8 th Year with a Potential Compliance Issue
CMM/Data Provision	Compliant	Non-Compliant	Priority Non- Compliant	Capacity Assistance Needed	Flag State Investigation	
	Solomon Islands, El Salvador, Thailand, Chinese Taipei Tonga, Tuvalu, United States, Vanuatu					
<i>Para (7)</i>	Australia, Canada, Cook Islands, China, Ecuador, European Union, Fiji, Federated States of Micronesia, Indonesia, Japan, Kiribati, Korea, Liberia, Marshall Islands, New Caledonia, New Zealand, French Polynesia, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Solomon Islands, El Salvador, Thailand, Tonga, Tuvalu, Chinese Taipei, United States, Vanuatu					
<i>Para (7) (reporting deadline)</i>	Australia, Canada, Cook Islands, China, Ecuador, European Union, Fiji, Federated States of Micronesia, Indonesia, Japan, Kiribati, Korea, Liberia, Marshall Islands, New Caledonia, New Zealand, French Polynesia,					

	Compliance or Implementation Status					2 nd , 3 rd , 4 th , 5 th , 6 th , 7 th or 8 th Year with a Potential Compliance Issue
CMM/Data Provision	Compliant	Non-Compliant	Priority Non- Compliant	Capacity Assistance Needed	Flag State Investigation	
	Panama, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Solomon Islands, El Salvador, Thailand, Tonga, Tuvalu, Chinese Taipei, United States, Vanuatu					
<i>Para (9)</i>	Australia, Canada, Cook Islands, China, Ecuador, European Union, Fiji, Federated States of Micronesia, Indonesia, Japan, Kiribati, Korea, Liberia, Marshall Islands, New Caledonia, New Zealand, French Polynesia, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Solomon Islands, El Salvador, Thailand, Tonga, Tuvalu, Chinese Taipei, United States, Vanuatu					
<i>Para 9 (reporting deadline)</i>	Australia, Canada, Cook Islands, China, Ecuador, European Union, Fiji, Federated States of Micronesia, Indonesia, Japan, Kiribati, Korea, Liberia, Marshall Islands,					

	Compliance or Implementation Status					2 nd , 3 rd , 4 th , 5 th , 6 th , 7 th or 8 th Year with a Potential Compliance Issue
CMM/Data Provision	Compliant	Non-Compliant	Priority Non- Compliant	Capacity Assistance Needed	Flag State Investigation	
	New Caledonia, New Zealand, French Polynesia, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Solomon Islands, El Salvador, Thailand, Tonga, Tuvalu, Chinese Taipei, United States, Vanuatu					
<i>Para (17)</i>	Australia, Canada, China, Cook Islands, Ecuador, European Union, Fiji, Federated States of Micronesia, Indonesia, Japan, Kiribati, Korea, Liberia, Marshall Islands, New Caledonia, New Zealand, French Polynesia, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Solomon Islands, El Salvador, Thailand, Tonga, Tuvalu, Chinese Taipei, United States, Vanuatu					

CMM/Data Provision	Compliance or Implementation Status					2 nd , 3 rd , 4 th , 5 th , 6 th , 7 th or 8 th Year with a Potential Compliance Issue
	Compliant	Non-Compliant	Priority Non-Compliant	Capacity Assistance Needed	Flag State Investigation	
<i>CMM 2014-02: Vessel Monitoring System</i>						
<i>Para (4)</i>	CMM Review					
<i>Para (9)(a)</i>	Australia, Cook Islands, Ecuador, European Union, Fiji, Federated States of Micronesia, Indonesia, Kiribati, Korea, Liberia, Marshall Islands, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Chinese Taipei, El Salvador, Tuvalu	Canada, China, Japan, Panama, United States, Vanuatu	Philippines	New Caledonia		Philippines [2]
<i>Para (9)(a) – VMS SSPs para 2.8</i>	Australia, Cook Islands, Ecuador, European Union, Fiji, Federated States of Micronesia, Japan, Korea, Liberia, Marshall Islands, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, El Salvador, Chinese Taipei, Tuvalu, United States, Vanuatu	Canada, China, Kiribati, Panama,	Philippines	New Caledonia		Philippines [3]

CMM/Data Provision	Compliance or Implementation Status					2 nd , 3 rd , 4 th , 5 th , 6 th , 7 th or 8 th Year with a Potential Compliance Issue
	Compliant	Non-Compliant	Priority Non-Compliant	Capacity Assistance Needed	Flag State Investigation	
<i>Para (9) (a) – VMS SSPs para 7.2.2</i>	Australia, Cook Islands, China, Ecuador, European Union, Fiji, Federated States of Micronesia, Japan, Kiribati, Korea, Liberia, Marshall Islands, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Solomon Islands, El Salvador, Tuvalu, Chinese Taipei, United States, Vanuatu	Panama				
<i>Para (9) (a) – VMS SSPs para 7.2.2 (reporting deadline)</i>	Australia, Cook Islands, China, Ecuador, European Union, Fiji, Federated States of Micronesia, Japan, Kiribati, Korea, Marshall Islands, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, Chinese Taipei, United States, Vanuatu	El Salvador, Panama				

CMM/Data Provision	Compliance or Implementation Status					2 nd , 3 rd , 4 th , 5 th , 6 th , 7 th or 8 th Year with a Potential Compliance Issue
	Compliant	Non-Compliant	Priority Non-Compliant	Capacity Assistance Needed	Flag State Investigation	
<i>CMM 2015-02: South Pacific Albacore</i>						
<i>Para (1)</i>	Australia, China, European Union, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, New Zealand, Philippines, Chinese Taipei, United States					
<i>Para (4)</i>	Australia, Cook Islands, China, European Union, Fiji, Indonesia, Japan, Kiribati, New Caledonia, New Zealand, French Polynesia, Solomon Islands, Chinese Taipei, Tonga, United States, Vanuatu					
<i>CMM 2016-01: Tropical Tunas</i>						
<i>Para (14)</i>	CMM Review					
<i>Para (16)</i>	CMM Review					
<i>Para 16 (sec iv)</i>	CMM Review					
<i>Para (16) (reporting deadline)</i>	CMM Review					
<i>Para (18)</i>	CMM Review					
<i>Para 18 (sec iv)</i>	CMM Review					

CMM/Data Provision	Compliance or Implementation Status					2 nd , 3 rd , 4 th , 5 th , 6 th , 7 th or 8 th Year with a Potential Compliance Issue
	Compliant	Non-Compliant	Priority Non-Compliant	Capacity Assistance Needed	Flag State Investigation	
<i>Para (19)</i>	Federated States of Micronesia, Japan, Kiribati, Korea, United States					
<i>Para (20) (collective obligation)</i>	PNAO					
<i>Para (22)</i>	<i>Philippines = Not assessed</i>					
<i>Para (23)</i>	Australia, Cook Islands, Fiji, Japan, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niue, French Polynesia, Samoa, Tokelau, Tonga, Chinese Taipei, United States, Vanuatu		Indonesia, Wallis and Futuna			Indonesia [3]
<i>Para (23) (reporting deadline)</i>	Australia, Cook Islands, Fiji, Japan, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niue, French Polynesia, Samoa, Tokelau, Tonga, Chinese Taipei, United States, Vanuatu		Indonesia, Wallis and Futuna			Indonesia [2]
<i>Para (24)</i>	Australia, Cook Islands, Fiji, Japan, New Caledonia, Niue, New Zealand, French Polynesia, Philippines, Samoa, Tokelau, Tonga, Chinese Taipei, United States, Vanuatu		Indonesia			Indonesia [2]

	Compliance or Implementation Status					2 nd , 3 rd , 4 th , 5 th , 6 th , 7 th or 8 th Year with a Potential Compliance Issue
CMM/Data Provision	Compliant	Non-Compliant	Priority Non- Compliant	Capacity Assistance Needed	Flag State Investigation	
<i>Para (24) (reporting deadline)</i>	Australia, Cook Islands, Fiji, Federated States of Micronesia, Japan, New Caledonia, Niue, New Zealand, French Polynesia, Philippines, Samoa, Tonga, Tokelau, Chinese Taipei, United States	Vanuatu	Indonesia			Indonesia [2]
<i>Para (24) (para 4 collective obligation) (reporting deadline)</i>	PNAO					
<i>Para (25)</i>	Australia, China, Ecuador, European Union, El Salvador, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, New Zealand, Philippines, United States		Chinese Taipei			

	Compliance or Implementation Status					2 nd , 3 rd , 4 th , 5 th , 6 th , 7 th or 8 th Year with a Potential Compliance Issue
CMM/Data Provision	Compliant	Non-Compliant	Priority Non- Compliant	Capacity Assistance Needed	Flag State Investigation	
<i>Para (30)</i>	China, Ecuador, European Union, Federated States of Micronesia, Indonesia, Japan, Kiribati, Korea, Marshall Islands, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Solomon Islands, El Salvador, Chinese Taipei, Tuvalu, United States, Vanuatu					
<i>Para (33)</i>	China, Ecuador, European Union, Federated States of Micronesia, Japan, Kiribati, Korea, Marshall Islands, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Solomon Islands, El Salvador, Tuvalu, Chinese Taipei, United States, Vanuatu					

CMM/Data Provision	Compliance or Implementation Status					2 nd , 3 rd , 4 th , 5 th , 6 th , 7 th or 8 th Year with a Potential Compliance Issue
	Compliant	Non-Compliant	Priority Non-Compliant	Capacity Assistance Needed	Flag State Investigation	
<i>Para (34)</i>	Australia, China, Federated States of Micronesia, Japan, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, United States, Vanuatu		Indonesia, Philippines			Indonesia [6], Philippines[5]
<i>Para (37)</i>	Australia, China, Ecuador, European Union, Federated States of Micronesia, Indonesia, Japan, Kiribati, Korea, Marshall Islands, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Solomon Islands, El Salvador, Chinese Taipei, Tuvalu, United States, Vanuatu					
<i>Para (37) (reporting deadline)</i>	Australia, China, Ecuador, European Union, Federated States of Micronesia, Indonesia, Japan, Kiribati, Korea, Marshall Islands, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Solomon Islands, El Salvador, Chinese Taipei, Tuvalu, United States, Vanuatu					

CMM/Data Provision	Compliance or Implementation Status					2 nd , 3 rd , 4 th , 5 th , 6 th , 7 th or 8 th Year with a Potential Compliance Issue
	Compliant	Non-Compliant	Priority Non-Compliant	Capacity Assistance Needed	Flag State Investigation	
<i>Para (40)</i>	China, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Chinese Taipei, United States					
<i>Para (41)</i>	Australia, European Union, New Zealand, Philippines					
<i>Para (44)</i>	China, Japan, Korea, Chinese Taipei, United States		Indonesia			Indonesia [5]
<i>Para (44) (reporting deadline)</i>	China, Japan, Chinese Taipei, United States		Indonesia, Korea			Indonesia [5], Korea [2]
<i>Para (47)</i>	Indonesia, Japan, Philippines					
<i>Para (48)</i>	Indonesia, Japan, Philippines					
<i>Para (49)</i>	Australia, Canada, China, Ecuador, European Union, Japan, Korea, New Zealand, El Salvador, Philippines Chinese Taipei, United States					
<i>Para (50)</i>	China, Japan, Korea, Philippines, Chinese Taipei, United States					

CMM/Data Provision	Compliance or Implementation Status					2 nd , 3 rd , 4 th , 5 th , 6 th , 7 th or 8 th Year with a Potential Compliance Issue
	Compliant	Non-Compliant	Priority Non-Compliant	Capacity Assistance Needed	Flag State Investigation	
<i>Para (51)</i>	Australia, China, European Union, Japan, Korea, New Zealand, Philippines, Chinese Taipei, United States					
<i>Para (52)</i>	China, Japan, Korea, Philippines, United States					
<i>Para (57)</i>	China, Japan, Korea, Philippines, Chinese Taipei					
<i>Para (59)</i>	China, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Philippines, Chinese Taipei					
<i>Att C (3)</i>	Philippines					
<i>Att C (3) (reporting deadline)</i>			Philippines			Philippines[2]
<i>Att C (5-6)</i>	Philippines					
<i>Att C (8)</i>	Philippines					
<i>Att C (10)</i>	Philippines					
<i>CMM 2016-04: Pacific Bluefin Tuna</i>						
<i>Para (3) (1)</i>	Australia, Canada, China, Japan, Korea, Philippines, Chinese Taipei, United States					
<i>Para (3) (2)</i>	Australia, Canada, China, Philippines, Chinese Taipei, United States,		Korea			Japan = not assessed

	Compliance or Implementation Status					2 nd , 3 rd , 4 th , 5 th , 6 th , 7 th or 8 th Year with a Potential Compliance Issue
CMM/Data Provision	Compliant	Non-Compliant	Priority Non- Compliant	Capacity Assistance Needed	Flag State Investigation	
<i>Para (4)</i>	Australia, Canada, China, Japan, Korea, Philippines, Chinese Taipei, United States					
<i>Para (6)</i>	Australia, Canada, Cook Islands, Fiji, Japan, Korea, Philippines, Chinese Taipei, United States, Vanuatu					
<i>Para (12)</i>	Australia, Canada, Cook Islands, China, Fiji, Japan, Korea, New Caledonia, Philippines, Chinese Taipei, United States					
<i>Scientific Data</i>						
<i>Section 01 – Estimate of Annual Catches</i>	Australia, Canada, Cook Islands, China, Ecuador, European Union, Fiji, Federated States of Micronesia, Indonesia, Japan, Kiribati, Korea, Marshall Islands, New Caledonia, New Zealand, French Polynesia, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Samoa, Solomon Islands, El Salvador, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, Chinese Taipei, United States, Vanuatu					

	Compliance or Implementation Status					2 nd , 3 rd , 4 th , 5 th , 6 th , 7 th or 8 th Year with a Potential Compliance Issue
CMM/Data Provision	Compliant	Non-Compliant	Priority Non- Compliant	Capacity Assistance Needed	Flag State Investigation	
<i>Section 01 – (reporting deadline)</i>	Australia, Canada, Cook Islands, China, Ecuador, European Union, Fiji, Federated States of Micronesia, Indonesia, Japan, Kiribati, Korea, Marshall Islands, New Caledonia, New Zealand, French Polynesia, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Samoa, Solomon Islands, El Salvador, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, Chinese Taipei, United States, Vanuatu					
<i>Section 02 – Number of Active Vessels</i>	Australia, Cook Islands, China, Ecuador, European Union, Fiji, Federated States of Micronesia, Indonesia, Japan, Kiribati, Korea, Marshall Islands, New Caledonia, New Zealand, French Polynesia, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Samoa, Solomon Islands, El Salvador, Tonga, Tuvalu, Chinese Taipei, United States, Vanuatu					

	Compliance or Implementation Status					2 nd , 3 rd , 4 th , 5 th , 6 th , 7 th or 8 th Year with a Potential Compliance Issue
CMM/Data Provision	Compliant	Non-Compliant	Priority Non- Compliant	Capacity Assistance Needed	Flag State Investigation	
<i>Section 02 (reporting deadline)</i>	Australia, Cook Islands, China, Ecuador, European Union, Fiji, Federated States of Micronesia, Indonesia, Japan, Kiribati, Korea, Marshall Islands, New Caledonia, New Zealand, French Polynesia, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Samoa, Solomon Islands, El Salvador, Tonga, Tuvalu, Chinese Taipei, United States, Vanuatu					
<i>Section 03 (vi) – Operational Level Catch and Effort Data</i>	Australia, Canada, Cook Islands, China, Ecuador, European Union, Fiji, Federated States of Micronesia, Japan, Kiribati, Korea, Marshall Islands, New Caledonia, New Zealand, French Polynesia, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Samoa, Solomon Islands, El Salvador, Tonga, Tuvalu, Chinese Taipei, United States, Vanuatu			Indonesia		

	Compliance or Implementation Status					2 nd , 3 rd , 4 th , 5 th , 6 th , 7 th or 8 th Year with a Potential Compliance Issue
CMM/Data Provision	Compliant	Non-Compliant	Priority Non-Compliant	Capacity Assistance Needed	Flag State Investigation	
<i>Section 03 (reporting deadline) – Operational Level Catch and Effort Data</i>	Australia, Canada, Cook Islands, China, Ecuador, European Union, Fiji, Federated States of Micronesia, Japan, Kiribati, Korea, Marshall Islands, New Caledonia, New Zealand, French Polynesia, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Samoa, Solomon Islands, El Salvador, Tonga, Tuvalu, Chinese Taipei, United States, Vanuatu					
<i>Section 05 (vi) – Size Compositionⁿ²</i>	Australia, Canada, Cook Islands, China, Ecuador, European Union, Fiji, Federated States of Micronesia, Indonesia, Japan, Kiribati, Korea, Marshall Islands, New Caledonia, Niue, New Zealand, French Polynesia, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, El Salvador, Tonga, Tuvalu, Chinese Taipei, United					

	Compliance or Implementation Status					2 nd , 3 rd , 4 th , 5 th , 6 th , 7 th or 8 th Year with a Potential Compliance Issue
CMM/Data Provision	Compliant	Non-Compliant	Priority Non- Compliant	Capacity Assistance Needed	Flag State Investigation	
	States, Vanuatu, Wallis and Futuna					
<i>Section 05 (reporting deadline)– Size Compositio n</i>	Australia, Canada, Cook Islands, China, Ecuador, Fiji, Federated States of Micronesia, Indonesia, Japan, Kiribati, Korea, Marshall Islands, New Caledonia, Niue, New Zealand, French Polynesia, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, El Salvador, Tonga, Tuvalu, Chinese Taipei, United States, Vanuatu, Wallis and Futuna		European Union			European Union [2]



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**CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURE FOR COMPLIANCE
MONITORING SCHEME**

Conservation and Management Measure 2018-07*

The Commission for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (the Commission)

In accordance with the Convention on the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (the Convention):

Recalling that the Commission has adopted a wide range of conservation and management measures to give effect to the objective of the Convention,

Noting that, in accordance with Article 25 of the Convention, Members of the Commission have undertaken to enforce the provisions of the Convention and any conservation and management measures adopted by the Commission,

Noting also that, in accordance with international law, Members, Cooperating Non-Members of the Commission and Participating Territories have responsibilities to effectively exercise jurisdiction and control over their flagged vessels and with respect to their nationals,

Acknowledging that Article 24 of the Convention obliges Members of the Commission to take the necessary measures to ensure that fishing vessels flying their flag comply with the provisions of the Convention and the conservation and management measures adopted pursuant thereto, as well as the obligations of chartering States with respect to chartered vessels operating as an integral part of their domestic fleets,

Noting that, in a responsible, open, transparent and non-discriminatory manner, the Commission should be made aware of any and all available information that may be relevant to the work of the Commission in identifying and holding accountable instances of non-compliance by Members, Cooperating Non-Members and Participating Territories with management measures,

Committed to Article 30 of the Convention which requires the Commission to give full recognition to the special requirements of developing States, in particular SIDS and territories, which may include the provision of financial, technical and capacity development assistance,

Committed to the implementation of Conservation and Management Measure 2013-07 to give operational effect to the full recognition of the special requirements of SIDS and territories in the Convention Area, in particular such assistance as may be needed to implement their obligations,

Further committed to the implementation of Conservation and Management Measure 2013-06 by applying the criteria to determine the nature and extent of the impact of a proposal on SIDS

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and territories in the Convention Area, in order to ensure that they can meet their obligations, and to ensure that any measure does not result in transferring, directly or indirectly, a disproportionate burden of conservation action onto SIDS and territories,

Recalling the specific function of TCC under Article 14(1)(b) of the Convention to monitor and review compliance by CCMs with conservation and management measures adopted by the Commission and make such recommendations to the Commission as may be necessary,

Recognising the responsibility of Members, Cooperating Non-Members and Participating Territories to fully and effectively implement the provisions of the Convention and the conservation and management measures adopted by the Commission, and the need to improve such implementation and ensure compliance with these commitments,

Recalling the recommendation of the second joint meeting of the tuna Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs) that all RFMOs should introduce a robust compliance review mechanism by which the compliance record of each Member is examined in depth on a yearly basis,

Cognisant of the MCS and enforcement framework developed by the Commission, *inter alia* the 2010-06 Conservation and Management Measure to Establish a List of Vessels Presumed to have carried out Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing activities in the WCPO, the online Compliance case file system, Article 25 of the Convention, which considers the compliance by individual vessels,

Adopts the following conservation and management measure in accordance with Article 10 of the Convention, establishing the WCPFC Compliance Monitoring Scheme:

Section I – Purpose

1. The purpose of the WCPFC Compliance Monitoring Scheme (CMS) is to ensure that Members, Cooperating Non-Members and Participating Territories (CCMs) implement and comply with obligations arising under the Convention and conservation and management measures (CMMs) adopted by the Commission. The purpose of the CMS is also to assess flag CCM action in relation to alleged violations by its vessels, not to assess compliance by individual vessels.
2. The CMS is designed to:
 - (i) assess CCMs' compliance with their WCPFC obligations;
 - (ii) identify areas in which technical assistance or capacity building may be needed to assist CCMs to attain compliance;
 - (iii) identify aspects of CMMs which may require refinement or amendment for effective implementation;
 - (iv) respond to non-compliance by CCMs through remedial and/or preventative options that include a range of possible responses that take account of the reason for and degree, the severity, consequences and frequency of non-compliance, as may be necessary and appropriate to promote compliance with CMMs and other Commission obligations;¹ and
 - (v) monitor and resolve outstanding instances of non-compliance by CCMs with their WCPFC obligations.

¹ In accordance with the process for identifying corrective action, as provided for in paragraph 45(vi).

Section II – Principles

3. The implementation of the CMS and its associated processes shall be conducted in accordance with the following principles for the purpose of the application of this measure:
- (i) Effectiveness: Effectively serve the purpose of this CMM to assess compliance by CCMs and assist the TCC in fulfilling the provisions of Article 14(1)(b) of the Convention;
 - (ii) Efficiency: Avoid unnecessary administrative burden or costs on CCMs, the Commission or the Secretariat and assist TCC in identifying and recommending removal of duplicative reporting obligations; and
 - (iii) Fairness: Promote fairness, including by: ensuring that obligations and performance expectations are clearly specified, that assessments are undertaken consistently and based on a factual assessment of available information and that CCMs are given the opportunity to participate in the process.
 - (iv) Cooperation towards Compliance: Promote a supportive, collaborative, and non-adversarial approach where possible, with the aim of ensuring long-term compliance, including considering capacity assistance needs or other quality improvement and corrective action.

Section III – Scope and application

4. The Commission, with the assistance of the Technical and Compliance Committee (TCC) shall evaluate CCMs' compliance with the obligations arising under the Convention and the CMMs adopted by the Commission and identify instances of CCM non-compliance, in accordance with the approach set out in this section.
5. The CMS shall not prejudice the rights, jurisdiction and duties of any CCM to enforce its national laws or to take more stringent measures in accordance with its national laws, consistent with that CCM's international obligations.
6. Each year, the Commission shall update what obligations shall be assessed in the following year using a risk-based approach, once developed and agreed. Until this risk-based approach is developed, the Commission shall take into account the following factors in considering the obligations to be assessed in the following year:
- (i) the needs and priorities of the Commission, including those of its subsidiary bodies;
 - (ii) evidence of high percentages of non-compliance or persistent non-compliance by CCMs with specific obligations for multiple years;
 - (iii) additional areas identified through the risk-based approach to be developed; and
 - (iv) the potential risks posed by non-compliance by CCMs with CMMs (or collective obligations arising from CMMs) to achieve the objectives of the Convention or specific measures adopted thereunder.

7. The Commission shall undertake an annual assessment of compliance by CCMs during the previous calendar year with the priority obligations identified under paragraph 6. Such assessment shall be determined based on the following criteria:

- (i) For a CCM-level quantitative limit or collective CCM quantitative limit, such as a limit on fishing capacity, fishing effort, or catch, verifiable data indicating that the limit has not been exceeded.
- (ii) For other obligations:
 - a. Implementation – where an obligation applies, the CCM is required to provide information showing that it has adopted, in accordance with its own national policies and procedures, binding measures that implement that obligation; and
 - b. Monitor and ensure compliance – the CCM is required to provide information showing that it has a system or procedures to monitor compliance of vessels and persons with these binding measures, a system or procedures to respond to instances of non-compliance and has taken action in relation to potential infringements.

8. The preparation, distribution and discussion of compliance information pursuant to the CMS shall be in accordance with all relevant rules and procedures relating to the protection and dissemination of, and access to, public and non-public domain data and information compiled by the Commission. In this regard, Draft and Provisional Compliance Monitoring Reports shall constitute non-public domain data, and the Final Compliance Monitoring Report shall constitute public domain data.

Section IV – WCPFC Online Compliance Case file system

9. The Secretariat shall maintain the WCPFC online compliance case file system as a secure, searchable system to store, manage and make available information to assist CCMs with tracking alleged violations by their flagged vessels.

10. For each case in the online system, the following information shall be provided by the flag CCM:

- (a) Has an investigation been started? (Yes/No)
- (b) If yes, what is the current status of the investigation? (Ongoing, Completed)
- (c) If the alleged violations stem from an observer report, have you obtained the observer report? (Yes/No)
- (d) If no, what steps have you taken to obtain the observer report?
- (e) What was the outcome of the investigation? (Closed – no violation; Infraction – not charged; Infraction – charged)
- (f) If no violation, provide brief explanation
- (g) If infraction, but not charged, provide brief explanation
- (h) If infraction charged, how was it charged (e.g., penalty/fine, permit sanction, verbal or written warning, etc.) and level of charged (e.g., penalty amount, length of sanction, etc.)

11. A flag CCM shall provide updates into the online system on the progress of an investigation until its conclusion.
12. CCMs that are relevant to a case shall be allowed to view those cases for vessels flying other flags. Relevant CCMs shall comprise the CCM that notified the case to the flag CCM, and where applicable, the coastal CCM, the ROP observer provider and the chartering CCM.
13. The Secretariat shall notify relevant CCMs when a case is entered into the online system.

Section V – Special Requirements of Developing States

14. Notwithstanding paragraph 4, where a SIDS or Participating Territory, or Indonesia or the Philippines cannot meet a particular obligation that is being assessed, due to a lack of capacity², that CCM shall provide a Capacity Development Plan to the Secretariat with their draft Compliance Monitoring Report (dCMR), that:
 - (i) clearly identifies and explains what is preventing that CCM from meeting that obligation;
 - (ii) identifies the capacity assistance needed to allow that CCM to meet that obligation;
 - (iii) estimates the costs and/or technical resources associated with such assistance, including, if possible, funding and technical assistance sources where necessary;
 - (iv) sets out an anticipated timeframe in which, if the identified assistance needs are provided, that CCM will be able to meet that obligation.
15. The CCM may work together with the Secretariat to draft the Capacity Development Plan. This plan shall be attached to that CCM's comments to the dCMR.
16. Where a capacity assistance need has been identified, through the preparation of a Capacity Development Plan, in a dCMR by a SIDS, Participating Territory, Indonesia or the Philippines, which has prevented that CCM from fulfilling a particular obligation, and TCC has confirmed that all of the elements of the Capacity Development Plan as stated in paragraph 14 are included, TCC shall assess that CCM as "Capacity Assistance Needed" for that obligation. TCC shall recommend to the Commission that it allow the Capacity Development Plan to run until the end of the anticipated timeframe and assistance delivery set out therein.
17. That CCM shall report its progress under the Capacity Development Plan every year in its Annual Report Part II. That CCM shall remain assessed as "Capacity Assistance Needed" against that particular obligation until the end of the timeframe in the plan.
18. Where the Commission is identified in the Capacity Development Plan to assist that CCM, the Secretariat shall provide an annual report of such assistance to TCC.
19. If a CCM notifies the Commission that its capacity needs have been met, the Capacity Development Plan for that obligation shall be deemed completed and the CCM's compliance with that obligation shall then be assessed in accordance with Annex I.

² Any CCM may identify a capacity assistance need through the CMS process; however, the application of paragraphs 14-16 is limited to those CCMs identified in the paragraph.

20. Unless the SIDS, Participating Territory, Indonesia or Philippines amends the Capacity Development Plan that it submitted under paragraph 16 in its dCMR and TCC has confirmed that all the elements of that Plan as stated in paragraph 14 are included, once the timeframe in that original Plan has passed, that CCM's compliance with that obligation shall be assessed in accordance with Annex I.

21. The Commission recognises the special requirements of developing State CCMs, particularly SIDS and Participating Territories, and shall seek to actively engage and cooperate with these CCMs and facilitate their effective participation in the implementation of the CMS including by:

(i) ensuring that inter-governmental sub-regional agencies which provide advice and assistance to these CCMs, are able to participate in the processes established under the CMS, including by attending any working groups as observers and participating in accordance with Rule 36 of the Commission's Rules of Procedure, and having access to all relevant information, and

(ii) providing appropriately targeted assistance to improve implementation of, and compliance with, obligations arising under the Convention and CMMs adopted by the Commission, including through consideration of the options for capacity building and technical assistance.

Section VI – Prior to TCC

22. Prior to the annual meeting of the TCC, the Executive Director shall prepare a Draft Compliance Monitoring Report (the Draft Report) that consists of individual draft Compliance Monitoring Reports (dCMRs) concerning each CCM and a section concerning collective obligations arising from the Convention or CMMs related to fishing activities managed under the Convention.

23. Each dCMR shall reflect information relating to the relevant CCM's implementation of obligations as identified under paragraph 6 as well as any potential compliance issues, where appropriate. Such information shall be sourced from reports submitted by CCMs as required in CMMs and other Commission obligations, such as:

i information available to the Commission through data collection programmes, including but not limited to, high seas transshipment reports, Regional Observer Programme data and information, Vessel Monitoring System information, High Seas Boarding and Inspection Scheme reports, and charter notifications;

ii information contained in an Annual Report which is not available through other means; and

iii where appropriate, any additional suitably documented information regarding compliance during the previous calendar year.

24. The Draft Report shall present all available information relating to each CCM's implementation of obligations for compliance review by TCC.

25. At least 55 days prior to TCC each year, the Executive Director shall transmit to each CCM its dCMR.

26. At the same time, the Executive Director shall draw from the online case file system and transmit to:
- (i) each flag CCM, the infringement identification relating to alleged violations by its flagged vessels on the online system for that CCM's own use to commence or progress an investigation. Relevant CCMs shall also be provided this same information; and
 - (ii) all CCMs, aggregated vessel level information across all fleets. This will be used to provide an indicator of potential anomalies in the implementation of obligations by a CCM, with a view towards identifying challenges for that CCM and providing targeted assistance. This information shall be considered by TCC alongside the Draft Compliance Monitoring Report.
27. While the Commission continues to develop the CMS including activities in the future workplan, the following shall apply:
- (i) Where a CCM cannot complete an investigation prior to TCC, that CCM shall provide the information as outlined in paragraph 10.
 - (ii). The CCM may work together with the Secretariat to draft the information required by paragraph 10.
 - (iii) The Secretariat shall provide a report of the information provided in accordance with paragraph 10 to TCC.
 - (iv) TCC will consider the report of paragraph 10 information compiled by the Secretariat.
 - (v) Where TCC recognizes that an investigation of an alleged violation has commenced and is ongoing, as identified in a dCMR by a CCM, TCC shall assess that CCM as "Flag State Investigation" for that obligation.
28. Upon receipt of its dCMR, each CCM may, where appropriate, reply to the Executive Director no later than 28 days prior to TCC each year to:
- (i) provide additional information, clarifications, amendments or corrections to information contained in its dCMR;
 - (ii) identify any particular difficulties with respect to implementation of any obligations; or
 - (iii) identify technical assistance or capacity building needed to assist the CCM with implementation of any obligations.
29. Relevant CCMs may continue to provide additional information or clarification into the online compliance case file system. Where such additional information or clarification is provided, at least fifteen days in advance of the TCC meeting, the Executive Director shall circulate an updated version of the document referred to under paragraph 26.
30. To facilitate meeting obligations under paragraphs 28 and 29, active cooperation and communication between a flag CCM and other relevant CCMs is encouraged.
31. At least fifteen days in advance of the TCC meeting, the Executive Director shall compile and circulate to all CCMs the full Draft Report that will include any potential compliance issues and requirements for further information to assess the relevant CCM's compliance status, in a form to be agreed to by the Commission, including all information that may be provided under paragraph 29.

32. TCC shall review the Draft Report and identify any potential compliance issues for each CCM, based on information contained in the dCMRs, as well as any information provided by CCMs in accordance with paragraph 28 of this measure. CCMs may also provide additional information to TCC with respect to implementation of its obligations.

Section VII – Development of the Provisional Compliance Monitoring Report at TCC

33. Taking into account any Capacity Development Plans developed pursuant to paragraphs 14-16, any additional information provided by CCMs, and, where appropriate, any additional information provided by non-government organisations or other organisations concerned with matters relevant to the implementation of this Convention, TCC shall develop a Provisional Compliance Monitoring Report (the Provisional Report) that includes a compliance status with respect to all applicable individual obligations as well as recommendations for any corrective action(s) needed by the CCM or action(s) to be taken by the Commission, based on potential compliance issues it has identified in respect of that CCM and using the criteria and considerations for assessing Compliance Status set out in Annex I of this measure.

34. A provisional assessment of each CCM's Compliance Status shall be decided by consensus. If every effort to achieve consensus regarding a particular CCM's compliance with an individual obligation has failed, the provisional CMR shall indicate the majority and minority views. A provisional assessment shall reflect the majority view and the minority view shall also be recorded.

35. Notwithstanding paragraph 34 above, a CCM shall not block its own compliance assessment if all other CCMs present have concurred with the assessment. If the assessed CCM disagrees with the assessment, its view shall be reflected in the Provisional or Final CMR.

36. Where a CCM has missed a reporting deadline,³ but has submitted the required information, this obligation will be accepted by TCC, unless a CCM has a specific concern or if there are updates from the Secretariat based on new information received.

37. The Provisional Report shall also comprise an executive summary including recommendations or observations from TCC regarding:

- (i) identification of any CMMs or obligations that should be reviewed to address implementation or compliance difficulties experienced by CCMs, particularly when TCC has identified ambiguity in the interpretation of or difficulty in monitoring and implementing that measure or obligation, including any specific amendments or improvements that have been identified,
- (ii) capacity building assistance or other obstacles to implementation identified by CCMs, in particular SIDS and Participating Territories,
- (iii) risk-based assessment of priority obligations to be assessed in the subsequent year (once the risk-based assessment is developed).

38. The Provisional Report shall be finalised at TCC and forwarded to the Commission for consideration at the annual meeting.

³ For the purposes of the Compliance Monitoring Scheme, all reporting deadlines will be based on Universal Time Code (UTC) time unless the CMM establishing the deadline specifies otherwise.

39. CCMs may provide additional information up to 21 days after TCC. Additional information is restricted to that which only requires administrative consideration by the Secretariat to fill an information gap. This paragraph shall not apply to substantive issues. TCC shall consider whether a particular obligation may be met with the provision of additional information.

40. The Secretariat shall update the compliance status of CCMs, 21 days after the deadline to submit additional information, based on the additional information provided by CCMs as outlined in paragraph 39. A summary of these updates shall be submitted to the Commission for their consideration, along with the pCMR.

Section VIII – Process at the Commission

41. At each annual Commission meeting, the Commission shall consider the Provisional Report recommended by the TCC, as well as any submission from a CCM indicating that its compliance assessment for a specific obligation at TCC was undertaken in a manner that the CCM deems to be procedurally unfair.

42. Taking into account any reviews undertaken after TCC under paragraph 41, the Commission shall adopt a final Compliance Monitoring Report.

43. The final Compliance Monitoring Report shall include a Compliance Status for each CCM against each assessed obligation and any corrective action needed, and also contain an executive summary setting out any recommendations or observations from the Commission regarding the issues listed in paragraph 37 of this measure.

44. Each CCM shall include, in its Part II Annual Report, any actions it has taken to address non-compliance identified in the Compliance Monitoring Report from previous years.

Section IX – Future Work

45. The Commission hereby commits to a multi-year workplan of tasks to enhance the CMS, with the aim of making it more efficient and effective by streamlining processes. This workplan should include the development of guidelines and operating procedures to support the implementation of the Compliance Monitoring Scheme, and shall include *inter alia*:

During 2019

(i) development of a process for assessing CCM actions in accordance with para 7(ii)(b) to replace para 27.

(ii) a comprehensive review of all the Commission's reporting requirements, with recommendations to remove duplicative reporting as well as ensure the Commission's data and information needs are met;

(iii) the development of audit points to clarify the Commission obligations assessed under the CMS, as well as the development of a checklist to be used by the proponents of any proposal to include a list of potential audit points for the consideration of the Commission;

(iv) explore investment in technology solutions to facilitate improvements to the compliance case file system.

During 2019 - 2020

(v) the development of a risk-based assessment framework to inform compliance assessments and ensure obligations are meeting the objectives of the Commission;

During 2020-2021

(vi) the development of corrective actions to encourage and incentivise CCMs' compliance with the Commission's obligations, where non-compliance is identified;

(vii) the development of the guidelines for participation of observers in closed meetings of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies which consider the Compliance Monitoring Report.

46. TCC shall consider any workplan and resourcing requirements to facilitate the work of the Secretariat in this regard.

Section X – Application and review

47. This measure shall be enhanced in 2019 in accordance with the future work in Section IX.

48. This measure will be effective for 2019.

Annex I - Compliance Status Table

Compliance Status ⁴	Criteria in 2019 Interim criteria	Criteria Once the audit points are developed	Response
<i>Compliant</i>	A CCM will be deemed <i>Compliant</i> with an obligation if the following criteria have all been met: a. reporting or submission deadlines; b. implementation of obligations through national laws or regulations; c. submission of all mandatory information or data required, in the agreed format, as applicable.	Compliance with the audit points	None
<i>Non-Compliant</i>	A CCM will be deemed <i>Non-Compliant</i> with an obligation if any of the following have occurred, as applicable: a. a CCM has failed to comply with an obligation or category of obligations not specifically identified as <i>Priority Non-Compliant</i> ; b. information or data for the obligation has been submitted or reported in a way that is incomplete, incorrect. c. Where TCC does not consider that progress has been made on a CDP or flag CCM investigations, or wrongly formatted; or d. a CCM has failed to meet reporting or submission deadlines.	Failure to meet the audit points	Each CCM shall include, in its Part II Annual Report, any actions it has taken to address non-compliance identified in the Compliance Monitoring Report. Actions may include, one or more of the following: a. A CCM must address the issue to gain compliance by the next compliance assessment; or b. A CCM shall provide a Status Report to the Secretariat; or c. Other response as determined by the Commission.

⁴ This annex applies to compliance statuses assigned for each individual obligation.

Compliance Status ⁴	Criteria in 2019 Interim criteria	Criteria Once the audit points are developed	Response
Priority Non-Compliant	<p>A CCM will be deemed Priority Non-Compliant with an obligation if any of the following have occurred, as applicable:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. exceeded quantitative limit established by the Commission; b. failure to submit its Part 2 Annual Report; c. repeated non-compliance with an obligation for two or more consecutively assessed years; or d. any other non-compliance identified as Priority Non-Compliance by the Commission. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. non-compliance with high-risk priority obligations and associated audit points b. repeated non-compliance with an obligation for two or more consecutively assessed years; or c. any other non-compliance identified as Priority Non-Compliant by the Commission. 	<p>Each CCM shall include, in its Part II Annual Report, any actions it has taken to address non-compliance identified in the Compliance Monitoring Report. Actions may include, one or more of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. A CCM must address the issue to gain compliance by the next compliance assessment; b. Other response as determined by the Commission.
Capacity Assistance Needed	<p>A SIDS or Participating Territory or Indonesia or the Philippines will be deemed Capacity Assistance Needed where they cannot meet an obligation and the following have occurred:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. that CCM has provided a Capacity Development Plan to the Secretariat with its dCMR prior to TCC; and b. TCC confirms that all the elements of paragraph 14 are included in that Plan. 	<p>When a SIDS or Participating Territory or Indonesia or the Philippines cannot meet an obligation that is being assessed due to a lack of capacity, that CCM shall provide a Capacity Development Plan to the Secretariat with the dCMR prior to TCC.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) The CCM shall complete the steps of the Capacity Development Plan for that obligation in order to become compliant with the obligation, and (ii) report progress against that plan every year in its Annual Report Part II until the end of the timeframe specified in that Plan.

Compliance Status ⁴	Criteria in 2019 Interim criteria	Criteria Once the audit points are developed	Response
<i>Flag State Investigation</i>	<p>A CCM will be deemed <i>Flag State Investigation</i> with an obligation if any of the following have occurred, as applicable:</p> <p>(i) Where TCC recognizes that an investigation of an alleged violation has commenced and is ongoing, as identified in a dCMR by a CCM; and</p> <p>(ii) that CCM has provided relevant information in paragraph 10 to the Secretariat with the dCMR</p>	Removed	<p>(i) The CCM must complete the steps in the in paragraph 10 for that obligation; and take appropriate action in accordance with the relevant articles of the Convention</p> <p>(ii) report an update against ongoing investigations every year in its Annual Report Part II until the end of the anticipated timeframe in the Status Report.</p>
<i>CMM Review</i>	There is a lack of clarity on the requirements of an obligation.	There is a lack of clarity on the requirements of an obligation.	The Commission shall review that obligation and clarify its requirements.

LIST OF OBLIGATIONS TO BE REVIEWED IN

2019 COMPLIANCE MONITORING REPORTS (COVERING 2018 ACTIVITIES)

Each obligation to be assessed is listed with notes on criteria set out in paragraph 7 and considering Annex I of the CMS CMM (CMM 2018-07)

Sci Data 1-3 & 5 (catch est, active vessels, op data, size data)

SciData 01	report
SciData 01	deadline
SciData 02	report
SciData 02	deadline
SciData 03	report
SciData 03	deadline
SciData 05	report
SciData 05	deadline

2007-01 ROP

CMM 2007-01 10	implementation
CMM 2007-01 14 (vii)	implementation
CMM 2007-01 Attachment K Annex C 06	implementation
CMM 2007-01 Attachment K Annex C 06	deadline

2009-06 Transshipment

CMM 2009-06 11	report
CMM 2009-06 11	deadline
CMM 2009-06 13	implementation
CMM 2009-06 29	Limit
CMM 2009-06 34	Limit
CMM 2009-06 35 a (ii)	report
CMM 2009-06 35 a (iii)	report
CMM 2009-06 35 a (iii)	deadline
CMM 2009-06 35 a (iv)	report
CMM 2009-06 35 a (iv)	deadline

2017-05 & 2014-03 RFV & RFV SSPs

CMM 2017-05 02	implementation
CMM 2017-05 03	implementation
CMM 2017-05 04	implementation
CMM 2017-05 07	implementation
CMM 2017-05 07	deadline
CMM 2017-05 09	report
CMM 2017-05 09	deadline
CMM 2017-05 17	implementation

2014-02 VMS

CMM 2014-02 9a	implementation
CMM 2014-02 9a VMS SSPs 2.8	implementation
CMM 2014-02 9a VMS SSPs 7.2.2	report
CMM 2014-02 9a VMS SSPs 7.2.2	deadline

2017-01 Tropical Tuna

CMM 2017-01 16	implementation
CMM 2017-01 17	implementation
CMM 2017-01 17	report
CMM 2017-01 17	deadline
CMM 2017-01 23	implementation
CMM 2017-01 25	Limit
CMM 2017-01 25	deadline
CMM 2017-01 26	Limit
CMM 2017-01 27	implementation
CMM 2017-01 29	report
CMM 2017-01 31	implementation
CMM 2017-01 33	implementation
CMM 2017-01 34	implementation
CMM 2017-01 35	implementation
CMM 2017-01 39	Limit
CMM 2017-01 41	report
CMM 2017-01 41	deadline
CMM 2017-01 43	Limit
CMM 2017-01 45	Limit
CMM 2017-01 47	Limit
CMM 2017-01 48	Limit
CMM 2017-01 51	Limit
CMM 2017-01 52	report
CMM 2017-01 54	report
CMM 2017-01 Att 2 03	report
CMM 2017-01 Att 2 03	deadline
CMM 2017-01 Att 2 05-06	implementation
CMM 2017-01 Att 2 08	implementation

2005-03 North Pacific Albacore

CMM 2005-03 02	Limit
CMM 2005-03 03	report
CMM 2005-03 03	deadline
CMM 2005-03 04	report

2015-02 SP Albacore

CMM 2015-02 01	Limit
CMM 2015-02 04	report

2017-08 PBF

CMM 2017-08 02 (1)	Limit
CMM 2017-08 02 (2)	Limit
CMM 2017-08 03	Limit
CMM 2017-08 04	report
CMM 2017-08 10	report

2010-07 Sharks

CMM 2010-07 09 implementation
CMM 2010-07 12 deadline

2011-04 Oceanic Whitetip sharks

CMM 2011-04 01 implementation
CMM 2011-04 03 report
CMM 2011-04 03 deadline

2013-08 Silky shark

CMM 2013-08 01 implementation
CMM 2013-08 03 report
CMM 2013-08 03 deadline

2010-01 Striped Marlin

CMM 2010-01 05 Limit
CMM 2010-01 08 report



WCPFC IUU VESSEL LIST FOR 2019

(Effective from 12 February 2019: WCPFC15 agreed to maintain the WCPFC IUU list for 2018 as the WCPFC IUU list for 2019)

Note: Information provided in this list is in accordance with CMM 2010-06 para 19 and WCPFC13 decisions

Current name of vessel (previous names)	Current flag (previous flags)	Date first included on WCPFC IUU Vessel List ¹	Flag State Registration Number/ IMO Number	Call Sign (previous call signs)	Vessel Master (nationality)	Owner/beneficial owners (previous owners)	Notifying CCM	IUU activities
Neptune	<i>unknown</i> (Georgia)	10 Dec. 2010	M-00545	<i>unknown</i> (4LOG)		Space Energy Enterprises Co. Ltd.	France	Fishing on the high seas of the WCPF Convention Area without being on the WCPFC Record of Fishing Vessels (CMM 2007-03-para 3a)
Fu Lien No 1	<i>unknown</i> (Georgia)	10 Dec. 2010	M-01432 IMO No 7355662	<i>unknown</i> (4LIN2)		Fu Lien Fishery Co., Georgia	United States	Is without nationality and harvested species covered by the WCPF Convention in the Convention Area (CMM 2007-03, para 3h)
Yu Fong 168	<i>unknown</i> (Chinese Taipei)	11 Dec. 2009		BJ4786		Chang Lin Pao-Chun, 161 Sanmin Rd., Liouciuo Township, Pingtung County 929, Chinese Taipei	Marshall Islands	Fishing in the Exclusive Economic Zone of the Republic of the Marshall Islands without permission and in contravention of Republic of the Marshall Islands's laws and regulations. (CMM 2007-03, para 3b)

¹ **Supplementary note as at 7 Dec 2017:** In October 2015, at the request of TCC11 the Executive Director sent letters to: Chinese Taipei and Georgia to request information of their vessel/s on the WCPFC IUU list, specifically their last known operations and whereabouts; and to other RFMOs (CCAMLR, CCSBT, IATTC, ICCAT, IOTC, NPAFC & SPRFMO) to seek their cooperation with locating the vessels on the WCPFC IUU list underlining that they are now listed on a number of IUU lists. Georgia replied to confirm that the vessels **Neptune** and **Fu Lien No 1** are no longer flying Georgia flag. Chinese Taipei confirmed that with respect to **Yu Fong 168**, the license was revoked in 2009 the owner of the vessel has been penalized through repeated monetary punishment for violating the rules of not returning to port. Chinese Taipei further advised that the most recent information was received from Thailand's notification to IOTC that the vessel landed their catches in the port of Phuket in the year 2013. On 17 November 2017, WCPFC received a communication from Chinese Taipei informing WCPFC that **Yu Fong 168** has been deregistered by Chinese Taipei.



**COMMISSION
FIFTEENTH REGULAR SESSION**
Honolulu, Hawaii, USA
10-14 December 2018

**SUMMARY REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE TWELTH SESSION OF
THE FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE (FAC12)**

**WCPFC15-2018-FAC12-14
14 December 2018**

Introduction

1. The Finance and Administration Committee (FAC12) was convened by Co-Chairs Mr. Wataru Tanoue (Japan) and Mr Magele Etuati Ropeti (Samoa) at 9:10 am on Sunday 9th December 2018. Subsequent sessions of FAC were held on 12th, 13th and 14th December 2018. Representatives of Australia, Canada, China, Cooks Islands European Union, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Indonesia, Japan, Kiribati, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Chinese Taipei, Tonga, Tuvalu, United States, Vanuatu, Guam, New Caledonia, Tokelau, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Forum Fisheries Agency, Parties to the Nauru Agreement, and SPC. Meeting support was provided by the Secretariat. A participants list is attached as Annex 4. The Committee agreed by consensus to present to the Commission the decisions and recommendations set out below.

AGENDA ITEM 1. OPENING OF MEETING

1.1 Adoption of agenda.

2. The agenda as set out in WCPFC15-2018-FAC12-01, WCPFC15-2018-FAC12-02 and WCPFC15-2018-FAC12-03 was adopted without change.
3. Following a query from Tokelau on agenda Item 5 Strategic Investment Plan Report from the Special Requirements Fund, whereby FFA members request the item remain open until after further FAC deliberations occur in the margins of the meeting. The Secretariat confirmed that an arrangement has been agreed between the commission chair and the working group chair; aspects of the report that will be considered by the FAC, noting that a debate will also be held in plenary.

4. Tokelau noted that the additional participation of developing States as part of the Strategic Investment Plan discussions under agenda item 5 will first require a Commission directive. This is a procedural issue. Before FAC can consider 'how' to fund or support additional participation, the Commission needs to decide 'if' it will support additional participation.
5. Australia asked for a supplementary budget to be prepared to facilitate discussion related to projects in this and other Commission meetings with budget considerations. A compilation of all the budget implications is requested prior to future FAC sessions

1.2 Meeting arrangements

6. WCPFC Executive Director Feleti Teo welcomed the Fisheries Minister from Tonga, and then detailed the Commission and FAC meeting arrangements and logistics.

AGENDA ITEM 2. AUDIT

2.1 Auditor Report for 2017 and General Account Financial Statements for 2017

7. The Finance and Administration Manager summarized the information in WCPFC15-2018-FAC12-04 noting the 2017 audit was completed and circulated to CCMs in July 2018. The auditor found that all financial statements were fair and that there were no instances of non-compliance with the Commission's Financial Regulation 12.4 (c) regarding income, expenditure, investment and asset management nor with Financial Regulation 12.4 (d) pertaining to financial procedures, accounting, internal controls and administration. There was a deficit of income over expenditure related primarily to delayed contributions.
8. Canada requested clarification of issues related to delayed contributions. It was explained that there was a surplus at the end of the year partly due to receipt of delayed contributions, which balances out over time, but may be perceived as a surplus in the budgetary year.
9. **FAC12 recommended that the Commission accept the audited financial statements for 2017 as set out in paper WCPFC15-2018-FAC12-04.**

2.1 Selection of an Auditor to audit the 2018 and 2019 Financial Statements

10. WCPFC Executive Director Feleti Teo explained the tendering process and stated that the Commission would select an auditor from the two bids as detailed in WCPFC15-2018-FAC12-08 Rev 1.
11. Kiribati on behalf of the FFA thanked the WCPFC Secretariat for international market testing and supported the reappointment of Deloitte & Touche who had provide a good service at a reasonable cost.

12. EU noted that the bids were not very different in terms of cost, but that they would prefer a change of auditors to help to ensure an independent audit. Secretariat noted that the costs were clarified in the Rev 1 version of the paper, and added that the current company did not use the same individual auditors each year.
13. Japan supported the view of the EU i.e. that there should be a change of auditor; and suggested that a wider call for tender should be made with a view to canvassing more bids.
14. Korea requested that the secretariat prepare a table detailing the differences in bids from potential auditors to facilitate an easy comparison for future bids.
15. USA would tend to choose the lowest cost auditor. It was queried if only one auditor had ever been used and how might different approaches affect the outcomes of the audit?
16. The FAM thought that the Secretariat had always used the same auditor. If auditors were changed, then it is expected that the format of the audit report would change.
17. **FAC12 recommended that Deloitte & Touche should be retained as the Commission auditor for the next 2 years and that the Secretariat should prepare a wider call for tender in the future to facilitate a greater number of bids.**

AGENDA ITEM 3. STATUS OF THE COMMISSION'S FUNDS

3.1 Report on General Account Fund for 2018 – Contributions and Other Income

18. The FAM introduced paper WCPFC15-2018-FAC12-05. The assessed contributions for 2018 was \$7,242,071, and the outstanding 2018 unpaid contributions stands at \$751,711 as of 1 November 2018.
19. PNG stated that their contribution had been made and asked for the Secretariat for confirmation. Secretariat noted that the payment was acknowledged in Rev 1 of the paper.
20. Canada encourages members to pay in a timely fashion and asked if there was a need to revise the financial regulations. Secretariat noted that larger membership dues are timely at the start of the year, smaller contributions tend to arrive later in the year.
21. **The FAC noted the report in WCPFC15-2018-FAC12-05 Rev 1.**

3.2 Report on the Status of Other Funds for 2018

22. Drawing the FAC's attention to WCPFC15-2018-FAC12-06 the FAM noted the following balances in the Special Requirements Fund and other funds established by the Executive Director.

23. Cook Islands noted that the SRF WG is not a standing committee and FFA members are of the opinion that that its work is complete, and it no longer has a role in the deliberations on the merit of SRF proposals. FFA is of the opinion that the development of the Strategic Investment Plan, coupled with selection and evaluation criteria in Attachment 1 to Appendix A of the SRF Principles, Guidelines and Operational Procedures document, provides sufficient information and guidance for the Secretariat to determine the merits of proposals valued over \$10,000. There is no need for another small working group.
24. Furthermore, FFA Members recommend the establishment of a SIDS special requirements webpage on the WCPFC website. This may include information on SRF projects and improve transparency. This is consistent with the recommendation from the SRF-IWG report. Benefits include: improving transparency on capacity development needs, identification of where and how assistance can be obtained, and donors and development partners can better identify where to focus resources in support of the SIDS.
25. The FAM indicated that a possible dedicated webpage for the Special Requirements Fund will be discussed later in the agenda.
26. EU noted that it is funding multi-million-dollar projects in the regions some of which is related to WCPFC and FFA. These expenditures should be referenced in this paper and/or on a dedicated website. The EU noted that attendance of a second member to attend WCPFC meetings appears to be often covered by existing funds and this should be considered in future deliberations.
27. In response to a query from the USA, the FAM explained that the CNM contribution fund offsets both annual contributions and the costs for smaller SIDS.
28. The CNM Contribution Funds will also be used to hold the observer fees. The collection of observer fees was originally assessed to be approximately \$16,000. But it was noted that some observers moved into national delegations, and it may be less now, around \$12,000. It was noted that last year additional Secretariat staff was brought to assist with the collection of the observer fees.
- 29. FAC12 noted the report in WCPFC15-2018-FAC12-06.**
- 30. FAC recommends removing the requirement that the Executive Director consult with the SRF Small Working Group on proposals that are over \$10,000.**

AGENDA ITEM 4. HEADQUARTERS ISSUES

4.1 Headquarters Matters

31. The FAM presented WCPFC15-2018-FAC12-07 Rev 2 highlighting the issues at headquarters arising in 2018.

32. Japan expressed concern regarding the increasing travel costs for air tickets and hotels. This combined with increased number of representatives at Commission meetings, it is important that the notification of intention to travel should be at least 2 weeks in advance of the proposed travel.
33. The RMI stated that 2-weeks' notice of travel is unacceptable to FFA members. The WCPFC secretariat must be flexible and meet the needs of SIDS with their relatively small administrations – in this regard, the Commission should adhere to the principles of Article 30. Niue supported the view expressed by RMI. Participation of SIDS members and associated travel is an operational cost that should be absorbed by the Commission. Palau noted that they live on a small island with expensive and limited routes, often travel is such that the traveler experiences jet-lag and leaves immediately on the last day of the meeting.
34. USA noted that this was a substantive issue and wanted to recognise those members who have made an effort to give advance notice of travel. The Secretariat was asked to provide information on the additional cost of late nominations for travel. The FAM explained that it was nearly impossible to provide a precise estimate of additional costs of short notice, but travel agents had indicated that the additional cost is in the region of 10 to 15 percent.
35. PNA Office pays for a lot of travel around the region and a contingency amount is included in the budget. PNA suggest that the FAC recommend this approach to the Commission.
36. It was noted that discussions would likely be followed up in a small working group, and travel arrangements are a later agenda item.
37. Canada recognized and appreciated the work of the secretariat.
- 38. FAC12 noted the report in WCPFC15-2018-FAC12-07 Rev 2.**

4.2 Proposal for a Supplemental Retirement Plan for the Secretariats' Locally Engaged Staff

39. The Executive Director referencing WCPFC15-2018-FAC12-11 reviewed the historical context of this agenda item, explaining why the Commission's support staff are not confident in the current viability of the national Social Security scheme in FSM. It was noted that employers in FSM have subscribed to supplementary retirement scheme.
40. The Secretariat reviewed options to provide a supplementary retirement scheme for support staff, noting the request to report back to FAC12 including the associated costs against a background of the overall support staff benefit packages.
41. The most common plan adopted in FSM is very similar to the US 401k plan. This scheme is detailed in the associate paper. The key elements of the scheme were explained.

42. Tonga with FFA are generally supportive of the proposal, requesting further information relating to projected Social Security budgets
43. Secretariat noted that Social Security figures and projections are included in the annexes of the paper.
44. USA supports the proposal in principle but notes that this initiative should be considered against the background of the overall budget; and asked for clarification on several points. FAM responded that length of service for support staff ranges from 2 to 12 years with an average of around 5 years, noting that the security guards are not employees per se – rather they are technically consultants. Staff retention is not an issue but recruitment was challenging. There would be a requirement to amend staff regulations to reflect the adoption of a pension scheme.
45. Japan and EU are generally supportive but agreed with the USA on the need to review this proposal against the background of the entire budget; the EU also queried if it might be possible to transfer the retirement fund outside of FSM if there was a perceived risk to the funds.
46. The Executive Director explained that FSM Social Security fell under national legislation and it was not the Secretariat's place to interfere, however other employers in FSM have developed a supplementary pension scheme. The ongoing support staff concerns were first brought to the attention of FAC11. The need to consider the proposed budgetary implication against other commission priorities is fully appreciated, and the final percentage contribution is subject to consideration of the FAC and agreement of the Commission.
47. In response to a query from Indonesia the Executive Director explained that an 8% contribution was selected as the lower end of a range of potential contributions. Currently social security is a deduction from the employee's salaries and on retirement an amount, not necessarily the amount paid in, is provided as a pension.
48. Canada proposed that employees be fully vested at the 7-year service and at a rate of 7%; there should be no residual liability to the WCPFC if the plan fails. Secretariat explained that there would be no residual liability.
49. It was noted by the USA that typically in a 401k the person investing in the plan may determine the level of risk. Secretariat confirmed that staff would have the final choice, noting that the Secretariat would provide advice on the risks implicit in any given portfolio selection.
50. **FAC12 recommends that a supplementary retirement plan for locally engaged staff with a 7% matching contribution and be fully vested after 7 years, be implemented in 2019.**
51. **FAC12 recommends the following be added to the Staff Regulations:**

33bis: Supplemental Retirement Benefit for Local Employees be added to the Staff Regulations

A local employee may contribute a proportion of his or her base salary to a supplemental retirement plan, in addition to the NPF as set out in regulation 33. Where a local employee chooses to contribute to such a scheme, the Commission will match the contributed funds up to a maximum of 7 percent of the employee's base salary per annum and fully vested after 7 years.

4.3 Proposal to Establish an Environmental Policy for the WCPFC Secretariat

52. The FAM provided an introduction to this report. The WCPFC does not currently have an Environmental Policy, but the Commission aspires to be a leader in the regions and would like to take proactive measures to reduce pollution etc. The FAM listed key areas and detailed an associated action plan.
53. Tokelau on behalf of FFA members commends the Secretariat on their initiative and is supportive of the proposal, which they consider to be a move in the right direction adding that it is important to look at the wider environmental impacts of the WCPFC. Tokelau noted that climate change is not properly considered in the decisions of the Commission.
54. Canada echoed the comments from Tokelau.
55. USA supports the work of the Secretariat in principle and in practice, through voluntary contributions. Regarding this proposal, it was queried whether the plan is a 'living document' or is the FAC asked to support the specific plan. The secretariat was asked how the carbon offset would be operationalized.
56. The FAM explained the FAC is asked to endorse the proposal to develop a policy in line with that presented in the paper and the action plan.
57. The EU agreed with the proposed actions and asked what other potential measures had been explored e.g. wind power. In the EU individuals may pay for carbon offset at their own discretion. More recyclable materials should be used at the secretariat. The potential costs associated with this proposal should be considered against the Commissions overall budget and member contributions.
58. The Secretariat explained that solar power is the best supported technology on island and it feeds excess power into the grid during the day, and the secretariat facilities draws power from the grid at night
59. The USA asked if additional funding was required or requested and is this incorporated this year or next year and noted that perhaps this initiative is best funded by voluntary contributions.
- 60. FAC12 supports the Secretariats efforts to develop and implement an environmental policy.**

4.4 TORs for the Building Maintenance Plan.

61. The FAM presented the paper on the TORs for the building maintenance plan. With reference to WCPFC15-2018-FAC12-09 the Secretariat determined that a building survey based on the proposed TOR would inform any future amendments to the Finance Regulations. Accordingly, TORs and budget for a consultancy were presented in this plan.
62. In response to queries from the USA, the Secretariat explained that the consultant will review specific elements of the HQ Building against the background of a tropical environment with a view to identifying the likely lifespan of those elements [e.g. roof] and the plan would aim to set aside appropriate funding annually to avoid sudden spikes in budget when repairs become necessary.
63. In response to query from Australia it was explained that currently the working capital fund is a contingency fund offsetting late contribution and was not envisioned for building maintenance. It is difficult to identify an appropriate budget without the technical consultancy report.
64. The EU agreed that the building should be maintained to continue the normal work of the commission and queried if the cost of the consultant could be covered by the Working Capital Fund. The question was asked if it be more appropriate to set up a fund with annual deductions or to insure against potential damage.
65. The Secretariat explained that issues raised should be managed subsequent the Commissions review and approval of the consultant's report. Canada agreed on the need for a twostep process. The FAC could recommend that the Working Capital Fund be used for the consultancy, which is expected to last 2-3 weeks not entirely based at the secretariat.
66. Japan was of the opinion that the consultant should conduct a full comprehensive survey of the building.
- 67. FAC12 recommends the approval of the terms of reference and budget for the consultancy to undertake a building survey and the development of a maintenance plan for the Commission buildings.**

AGENDA ITEM 5. REPORT FROM THE SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS FUNDS VIRTUAL WORKING GROUP

68. The VWG Chair Liz Brierley (Australia) presented WCPFC15-2018-FAC_SRF IWG, detailing a strategic development plan that was requested by WCPFC14. Looking at capacity needs across WCPFC and existing funding and funding mechanisms. Article 30 funding should be more transparent as should the Strategic Investment Plan and the SRF; this information should be available on the WCPFC website. As new CMMs are approved any related templates should be located on the same site. It was also noted that there is a broad web of funding that isn't immediately apparently to

WCPFC members. Maintaining the webpage would be covered under the secretariat budget. It is proposed that the SIP would be a 3-year trial to be reviewed by the Commission. All CCMs contributions could be increased by a percentage 2% or 4% across the board, a table showing how this would impact individual members was presented. Another option is to levy a larger percentage from more developed countries. Non-allocated funds such as observer fees could perhaps be added to the SRF as could any surpluses in the working capital fund.

69. Niue drew attention to the FFA paper DP-26 on funding options.
70. The USA was comfortable with some of the recommendations and queried how much of a surplus in the working capital fund that might be available to the SRF. The FAM advised that the Working Capital Fund stands at \$1,654,000, which equates to a \$654,000 surplus with \$350,000 earmarked to offset 2019 contributions.
71. In response to a query from Korea, the Working Group Chair explained that there are two ways to apply funding, 1 it could be a line item in the WCPFC budget for travel or travel could be funded via the Special Requirements Fund. The latter is more flexible allowing travel to workshops etc.
72. The EU declared that the WCPFC cannot cover all the development needs for SIDS with the WCPFC budget. Funding a second SIDS member to attend WCPFC meetings is a specific issue, any other issues related to SIDS development should be considered separately.
73. Japan noted that of the options presented, options 4 and 5 appeared to be feasible for next year (2019); adding that travel requests should be timely and small working groups should ideally be attached to existing meetings for greater efficiency. Korea shared Japan's preference for options 4 and 5. If, after a trial period, this doesn't work, then other options may be considered.
74. Canada noted with reference to paragraph 2 in the paper, the need to balance affordability against priorities.
75. Chinese Taipei has budget constraints and would hope for options with more flexibility; e.g. regarding option 3 it was felt that this should be applied to all members not just developed countries.
76. Australia emphasized the importance of effective and inclusive participation for SIDS.
77. USA reminded the meeting that some policy items should be considered prior to agreeing recommendations at the FAC. The Strategic Implementation Plan is a useful document for discussion at plenary; and it should be a living document changing over time; given that the IWG has finished its work, it was assumed that the secretariat would take over responsibility of maintaining the SIP.
78. The WG Chair explained that the intention was that the SIP 3-year plan would be updated annually, noting that SIDS needs would change annually and that these

changes may be identified via part 2's and CMRs; the secretariat would then determine what funding sources are available and how to manage the needs vs funding options. Noting that part of the reporting to identifying needs is non-public.

79. The Executive Director confirmed that if the FAC and the Commission approve the SIP the process of matching needs and funding would be an annual process.
80. The WG Chair noted that a 3-year time frame would provide sufficient time to determine if the needs are still applicable and allow enough time to identify various funding options.
81. Following a query from the EU, the WG Chair explained that a WCPFC funding approach would be agreed here. Funding options external to the WCPFC are found in the attachment, a better understanding of external finding over time may affect the amount of funding required from WCPFC in any given year.
82. Tokelau noting that the Strategic Investment Plan is updated via the CMS process, remarked that capacity issues should be addressed whenever new measures are developed/adopted. The WG Chair agreed but there would be a variety of other points at which capacity building should be identified and addressed.
83. Following a comment by the USA, the WG Chair reiterated the need for a dedicated webpage for SRF reports and greater transparency – all funding available to SIDS should be posted, i.e. it should not be limited to the SRF.
- 84. FAC agreed to keep the Special Requirements Fund at a target base level of \$150,000, which is equivalent to ~2% of CCM contributions, to support implementation of the Strategic Investment Plan and other needs as identified by developing States Parties, particularly small island developing states, and, where appropriate, territories and possessions. This will be reconsidered, if required, in 2019 to determine if the target base level is sufficient to support ongoing implementation of the Strategic Investment Plan. The Special Requirements Fund will continue to be open to voluntary contributions.**
- 85. When supporting travel to meetings held outside Pohnpei, FAC instructed the Secretariat to provide DSAs via electronic transfer to travelling CCMs to avoid the security issues associated with the Secretariat having to carry large amounts of cash internationally. Bookings and transfers will be made, whenever possible, by 10 days prior to meetings to ensure cost effectiveness and efficiencies in supporting travel.**

AGENDA ITEM 6. WORK PROGRAMME AND BUDGET FOR 2019 AND INDICATIVE WORK PROGRAMME AND BUDGET FOR 2020 AND 2021

86. The FAM presented paper WCPFC15-2018-FAC12-10, detailing the proposed 2019 budget based on recommendations from SC, TCC, Intercessional Working Groups

and the WCPFC Secretariat. In response to queries from participants the following areas were clarified:

- USA notes that the budget does not include some potentially large budget items that will be discussed later. Asked for background on the costs associated with developing a corporate plan. The breakdown of the associated costs is available and the FAM indicated that the cost of the consultancy was around USD 6,000.
- In response to a query from RMI, the ED explained that a supplementary budget with all candidate budget items be developed, including redundant unfunded activities prior to forthcoming FAC sessions during WCPFC15.
- NZ queried the value and utilization of observer fees. Aaron – the other income including observer fees is around \$ 12,000.
- The FAM advised that the Commission website would be refreshed to be more user friendly – each year this project has been deferred. \$20,000 would cover the cost of a consultant.
- Japan referenced the \$22,000 requested to procure 2 cars for the secretariat. This relates to a replacement for a written off security vehicle, and the purchase of a replacement vehicle for the Executive Director next year.
- Tokelau asked about the budget related to the solarization of the secretariat building. The FAM stated that this was complex noting that the PUC will impose a charge for drawing from the grid by an amount that was yet to be determined.
- EU asked if Secretariat vehicles could be replaced with electric cars? Canada echoed the query. In response it was explained that there were no electronic vehicles on island and nor was there anyone on island with maintenance skills.
- Secretariat informed the FAC of FSM initiatives to develop fuel from coconut which may be an option in the future; but most of the fuel costs in the budget line item are due to running the generator during power outages.
- In response to a Japanese query, it was explained that historically there had always been at least 4 vehicles at the Commission an additional one was purchased for use by security when the secretariat took over management of the security role.
- In response to a USA query on benefits it was explained that for professional staff the benefit costs are related to: education, retirement, cost of living and travel; insurances: are for medivac and health

87. The Compliance Manager explained in response to RMI that the budget line for training in relation to cross-endorsement. The IATTC secretariat provides a trainer, but the travel costs fall to the WCPFC. RMI supports the cross-endorsement program but was unclear about how this should be prioritized in the funding, and perhaps other options such as cost recovery should be considered. USA agreed with RMI regarding differing priorities and is prepared to discuss potential alternative funding options to facilitate cross endorsement, but it is unclear how cost recovery might work. The EU noted that cross-trained observers are from throughout the region and hence the benefits are widespread and their preference was for the current funding mechanism be maintained.

88. Responding to a query from Tokelau on the budget for Commissions contribution to observer training, it is part of the broader budget line which is not explicitly for observer training.

89. RMI suggested that it might be more appropriate to prioritize long line observer coverage, for example, rather than cross-endorsement. Cost recovery is applied within the region and should remain on the table as an option to cover the cross-endorsement training.
90. Canada referenced the cost of researching the purchase of a tagging boat asked if there was an opportunity to generate revenue from the vessel which could support other WCPFC initiatives. The co-chair noted that there was extensive discussion on this topic during SC. Tuvalu reminded the meeting that the charter of vessels for tagging is costly, and this proposal is intended to review various options including vessel purchase and operation.
91. The EU noted that the cost was high for bringing an extra developing state delegate to Commission Meetings and queried what range of other funding options might be applied to this budget line. USA shared the concerns of the EU. The FAM detailed the potential funding options including SRF, General Accounts Fund, Observers Fund etc., noting that the number presented to the group represented only the member contribution.
92. FFA explained to the group, that an issue identified with some funding sources, including the SRF is that the amount in the fund varies over time, and the funding for an extra delegate needs to be sustainable.
93. The FAM noted that in the funding examples presented, there would be no need to change the financial regulations.
94. China offered a suggestion to have a phased in approach, i.e. perhaps in 2019 an additional delegate would be funded for 2 meetings and then expand participation in subsequent years, noting that this would reduce the initial financial impact. Japan shared China's view and requested costs by meeting(s). The FAM detailed the anticipated costs and how those costs were estimated, based on the average attendance frequency by meeting.
95. The EU requested an explanation of how any sources could be used to reduce the members contribution if members had to then top up those 'other' funds that were being utilized. There followed a detailed explanation regarding how surpluses were generated in the various accounts, and it was not anticipated that member contributions to 'other' funds would be raised in 2019.
96. In Australia's opinion the costs appeared to be affordable.
97. There was considerable discussion around a proposal to review options in relation acquiring a suitable tagging vessel. SPC explained current and historical tagging project issues and vessel needs and the scope of the project.
98. Several CCMs including China, EU thought the costs were high and thought the purchase of dedicated vessel and running costs to be operated by the WCPFC would be exorbitant.

99. SPC and many CCMs stated that the proposal was not to purchase a tagging vessel, rather it was intended to review options with a view to reducing the current high vessel costs related to tagging. It was also noted that the options may include operation management outside of the WCPFC and possible mechanisms for cost recovery, including the sale of fish. SPC informed the group that some earlier tagging projects were so expensive that they could not have been conducted without in kind contributions from SPC, which could not be guaranteed in the future.
100. New Zealand supported the statement by SPC adding that new initiatives would likely increase the need for tagging work, and any gaps in the tagging record would have implications for the quality of the science and associated advice provided to the Commission.
101. FFA and various CCMs including Tuvalu, New Zealand were very supportive of this study which would provide the requisite information on which to determine the most economic option for tagging into the future, adding that there would likely be an increased need for tagging over time.
102. USA was in favour of reprioritizing the proposal to a lower priority.
103. Some members including Japan, China, EU and Chinese Taipei reiterated their caution, especially in regard to running costs.
104. SPC noted that ownership was something that might be determined from the outcomes of the proposed study, and there may be a other preferable options available; he also suggested an alternative way to progress this initiative, that is, spread the cost over two years 2019 and 20120 with a guarantee of funding over the second year.
105. The FAM explained item 2.2 - Seabird Project had outside funding FAO to offset the cost and in effect the Commission was obliged maintain their contribution for the second year of the project.
106. The EU expressed their wish to save as many science projects as possible including and especially P92.
107. The co-chair noted that project 92 and 83 in the science budget have the same priority level.
108. The EU queried why proposed FAD acoustics analysis work was taken out of the 2019 budget noting that the EU supported this work. New Zealand explained that the study was not approved for 2019 but for 2020.
109. The proposed tagging vessel study was revisited noting the a new SPC proposal on the table to spread the funding over 2 years. Canada requested that the feasibility of selling fish caught by the vessel should be included in the TORs, and New Zealand recalled that cost recovery was already included in the study. PNA would support a 2-year approach and agreed with Canada's proposed change to the TORs of the project.
110. Some CCMs did not support the project and it was taken out of the 2019 budget.

111. With regard to the ROP CMM Booklet, there was some discussion around the need for a hard-copy versus an electronic version and it was agreed that there would not be a hard copy of the book. The budget for the ROP CMM Booklet was removed from the budget.
112. Several members requested removal of the cross-endorsement 1 from the budget. USA however saw value in this work and asked that it be retained at a reduced rate and the USA would then seek to make up the difference via a voluntary contribution. The EU supported the offer from the USA and although PNA still had some reservations they agreed that this was acceptable following an intervention from Tokelau.
113. Following a query on process, the Commission Legal Advisor, explained that from the regulations and precedence, the FAC could remove line items where there was no consensus, however this principle did not extend to retaining existing line items where there was no consensus to remove them.
114. The EU queried the overall process and asked if the FAC was aiming to achieve a specific target budget. The co-chair explained how the FAC had been tasked by the Commission to reprioritize and if possible free up some funding to be available for additional items. Australia supported that explanation
115. There were no objections to funding the proposed work on the Retirement Plan and the Building Maintenance Plan seeing general support the co-chair indicated that both projects would be retained.
116. With regard to the SRF, the IWG Chair confirmed a phased approach for the implementation plan and the Commission could consider increases over time. In response to a query from Canada, the IWG Chair explained that the 85k budgeted included participants and cost for the venue. The SRF is flexible but would not cover all costs, and alternative language was suggested to reflect this.
117. Kiribati expressed a preference for a flexible timeline with regard to funding transfers to participants.
118. There were many suggestions regarding further editing to reflect the views of various members, and the working group agreed to take up the offer of the IWG Chair work offline and to come back to the FAC with another revision.
- 119. FAC12 agreed to a 2019 budget of \$8,041,652 (Annexes 1-3) pending any subsequent decision reached by WCPFC15 that will have an impact on the budget.**
- 120. FAC12 agreed to provide funds from existing sources to the SRF from the Working Capital Fund (\$90,000), the CNM Contribution Fund (\$50,000) and from observer fees (\$10,000).**

AGENDA ITEM 7. OTHER MATTERS

121. New Zealand presented a draft TOR for the Draft Corporate Plan which was positively received and the FAC recommended work continued to allow the Commission to agree the TOR.

122. FAC supported the nomination of Jonathon Kidu (PNG) as one FAC Candidate for Co-Chair of the FAC.

AGENDA ITEM 8. ADOPTION OF REPORT

123. FAC12 adopted this summary report which is tabled as WCPFC15-2018-FAC12.

124. FAC12 invites WCPFC15 to consider this report and to endorse its recommendations.

AGENDA ITEM 9. CLOSE OF MEETING

125. The Co-Chairs, Wataru Tanoue and Magele Etuati Ropeti, closed the final session of FAC12 at 13.33 on 14th December 2018.

**Summary of estimated General Fund budgetary requirements for 2019
and indicative figures for 2020 and 2021 (USD)**

	<i>Approved budget 2018</i>	<i>Estimated expenditure 2018</i>	<i>Indicative budget 2019</i>	<i>Proposed budget 2019</i>	<i>Indicative budget 2020</i>	<i>Indicative budget 2021</i>
Part 1 - Administrative Expenses of the Secretariat						
Sub-Item 1.1 <i>Staff Costs</i>						
Professional Staff Salary	957,069	913,783	959,797	957,069	957,069	957,069
Professional Staff Benefits and Allowances	942,273	872,916	920,832	915,109	892,395	908,395
Professional Staff Insurance	123,219	141,746	126,765	133,371	135,504	137,448
Recruitment/Repatriation	25,565	15,800	25,565	25,565	25,565	51,130
Support Staff	410,632	385,395	415,985	440,167	448,145	456,662
Total, sub-item 1.1	2,458,758	2,329,640	2,448,945	2,471,281	2,458,678	2,510,704
Sub-Item 1.2 <i>Other Personnel Costs</i>						
Temporary Assistance/Overtime	16,500	15,865	16,500	16,500	16,500	16,500
Chairs Expenses	25,000	17,687	30,000	0	0	0
Consultants <i>see note 1</i>	148,000	131,004	148,000	166,000	148,000	148,000
Total, sub-item 1.2	189,500	164,556	194,500	182,500	164,500	164,500
Sub-item 1.3 <i>Official Travel</i>	210,000	181,993	210,000	210,000	210,000	210,000
Sub-item 1.4 <i>General Operating Expenses</i>						
Electricity, Water, Sanitation	60,000	55,568	60,000	60,000	60,000	60,000
Communications/Courier	76,000	71,926	76,000	76,000	76,000	76,000
Office Supplies & Fuel	43,000	41,802	43,000	40,000	43,000	43,000
Audit	7,000	7,000	7,500	7,500	7,500	7,500
Bank Charges	9,500	9,644	9,500	9,500	9,500	9,500
Official Hospitality	10,000	9,250	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
Community Outreach	8,000	8,000	8,000	8,000	8,000	8,000
Miscellaneous Services	6,400	5,187	6,400	6,400	6,400	6,400
Security	93,000	95,851	93,000	93,000	93,000	93,000
Training	15,000	1,479	15,000	10,000	15,000	15,000
Total, sub-item 1.4	327,900	305,707	328,400	320,400	328,400	328,400
Sub-item 1.5 <i>Capital Expenditure</i>						
Vehicles	22,000	21,086	22,000	22,000	0	22,000
Information Technology	56,753	56,161	56,753	56,753	56,753	56,753
Website New Projects/Enhancements	8,000	9,355	20,000	20,000	8,000	8,000
Furniture and Equipment	32,000	31,311	32,000	32,000	32,000	32,000
Total, sub-item 1.5	118,753	117,913	130,753	130,753	96,753	118,753
Sub-item 1.6 <i>Maintenance</i>						
Vehicles	6,000	6,966	5,800	6,000	6,000	6,000
Information and Communication Technology	128,638	123,017	128,638	129,714	129,714	129,714
Buildings & Grounds	56,500	56,538	56,500	56,500	56,500	56,500
Gardeners and Cleaners	77,074	79,599	79,500	79,500	79,500	79,500
Insurance	23,000	18,921	23,000	23,000	23,000	23,000
Total, sub-item 1.6	291,212	285,041	293,438	294,714	294,714	294,714
Sub-item 1.7 <i>Meeting Services</i>						
Annual Session <i>see note 2</i>	165,000	235,000	165,000	202,400	165,000	165,000
Scientific Committee	236,200	207,605	192,000	192,000	192,000	192,000
Northern Committee <i>see note 3</i>	18,000	16,241	18,000	18,000	18,000	18,000
Technical and Compliance Committee	187,800	146,750	159,800	159,800	159,800	159,800
Total, sub-item 1.7	607,000	605,596	534,800	572,200	534,800	534,800
TOTAL, Section 1/Item 1	4,203,124	3,990,446	4,140,837	4,181,849	4,087,846	4,161,872

ANNEX 1 (continued)	Approved budget 2018	Estimated expenditure 2018	Indicative budget 2019	Proposed budget 2019	Indicative budget 2020	Indicative budget 2021	
Part 2 - Science & Technical & Compliance Programme							
Section 2 (Item 2)							
Sub-item 2.1	Scientific Services (SPC)	888,624	888,624	906,396	906,396	924,524	943,015
Sub-item 2.2	Scientific Research						
	Additional Resourcing SPC	163,200	163,200	164,832	164,832	166,480	168,145
	P42 Pacific Tuna Tagging Project	500,000	500,000	650,000	645,000	645,000	730,000
	P60 Improving purse seine species composition	0	0	40,000	0	40,000	40,000
	P57 Limit Reference Points	25,000	25,000	0	0	0	0
	P68 Estimation of Seabird Mortality	22,500	22,500	17,500	17,500	0	0
	P88 Acoustic FAD analyses	0	0	120,000	0	120,000	72,000
	P92 Alternative stock assessments whitetip shark	0	0	0	0	0	0
	P94 Workshop on YF and BE age and growth	0	0	0	15,000	0	0
	P35b Maintenance of WCPFC Tissue Bank	97,200	97,200	97,200	97,200	99,195	101,180
	P90 Fish weights/lengths for scientific analyses	0	0	40,000	60,000	30,000	20,000
	P81 Further work on bigeye tuna age and growth	30,000	30,000	0	0	0	0
	P82 Yellowfin tuna age and growth	100,000	100,000	85,000	85,000	0	0
	P83 Investigating the potential for WCPFC tag vessel	0	0	0	0	0	0
	High Priority Project(s) - to be allocated <i>see note 4</i>	0	0	83,000	0	83,000	83,000
Total, sub-item 2.2		937,900	937,900	1,297,532	1,084,532	1,183,675	1,214,325
Sub-item 2.3	Technical & Compliance Programme						
	ROP - Audit/Remediation	15,000	23,951	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000
	ROP - Special Projects and Research Activities	10,000	0	10,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
	ROP - Training, Assistance & Development	20,000	8,289	20,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
	Observer CMM booklet	13,000	11,671	13,000	0	0	0
	ROP Data Management	923,904	923,904	923,904	923,904	923,904	923,904
	Vessel Monitoring System - Capital Costs	20,000	19,500	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000
	Vessel Monitoring System	265,000	228,352	265,000	235,000	235,000	235,000
	Vessel Monitoring System - Airtime	197,600	199,731	199,576	201,572	203,587	205,623
	Vessel Monitoring System - Security Audit	8,400	8,400	8,400	8,400	8,400	8,400
	CCM/Staff VMS Training	40,000	6,214	40,000	25,000	25,000	25,000
	Information Management System <i>Note 6</i>	100,000	99,179	100,000	200,000	100,000	100,000
	Workshops/IATTC Cross Endor. Train.	28,000	20,447	28,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
	AR Part 2/CMS Online Host. and Pub.	18,000	18,000	18,000	18,000	18,000	18,000
	Targeted Capacity Building	50,000	1,343	50,000	40,000	40,000	40,000
	E-Monitoring and E-Reporting Workshop	50,000	12,148	0	0	0	0
	E-Monitoring and E-Reporting Activities	110,000	109,147	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000
	Regional Capacity Building Workshops <i>see note 5</i>	130,000	130,000	130,000	130,000	130,000	130,000
Total, item 2.3		1,998,904	1,820,275	1,870,880	1,868,876	1,770,891	1,772,927
TOTAL, Section 2/Item 2		3,825,428	3,646,799	4,074,808	3,859,804	3,879,090	3,930,267
Total, Parts 1 & 2		8,028,552	7,637,245	8,215,645	8,041,652	7,966,937	8,092,140

Note 1: Consultancies proposed are:

Legal support services	\$55,000
ED Discretion	\$25,000
Media Consultant	\$10,000
Building Maintenance Plan Consultant	\$28,000
Meetings' rapporteur	\$48,000
	<u>\$166,000</u>

Note 2: Annual Session

Based on the meeting being hosted in PNG with one extra meeting day

Note 3: Northern Committee

As per WPCFC9, an additional USD25,000 will be assessed from non-developing state members of the NC to fund attendance at the NC meeting by developing states and territories if needed.

Note 4: Unobligated Budget

For science-related projects requested by the Commission with no budget allocation

Note 5: Regional Capacity Building Workshops

FFA/SPC to advise on the use of these funds

Note 6: IMS

USD20,000 to be set aside for development of CMS systems

USD80,000 to assist implementation of new CMS requirements

ANNEX 2

**Proposed General Fund financing table for 2019
01 January to 31 December 2019**

Proposed budget expenditure total	8,041,652
less	
Estimated interest	(3,400)
Transfer from Working Capital Fund	(350,000)
CNM Contributions Fund	(50,000)
Total assessed contributions	<u><u>7,638,252</u></u>

**Proposed General Fund financing table for 2020
01 January to 31 December 2020**

Proposed budget expenditure total	7,966,937
less	
Estimated interest and other income	(3,400)
Transfer from Working Capital Fund	(350,000)
CNM Contributions Fund	(50,000)
Total assessed contributions	<u><u>7,563,537</u></u>

**Proposed General Fund financing table for 2021
01 January to 31 December 2021**

Proposed budget expenditure total	8,092,140
less	
Estimated interest and other income	(3,400)
Transfer from Working Capital Fund	(350,000)
CNM Contributions Fund	(50,000)
Total assessed contributions	<u><u>7,688,740</u></u>

ANNEX 3

Indicative schedule of contributions based on the Commission’s contribution formula

<i>2019 Contribution Table</i>								
<i>Member</i>	<i>Base fee component: uniform share 10% of budget</i>	<i>National wealth component: 20% of budget</i>	<i>Catch component: 70% of budget</i>	<i>Addition for Northern Committee</i>	<i>Total Contributions by Members</i>	<i>Percent of Budget by member</i>	<i>Offset for Small Island Developing States*</i>	<i>Total of components: 100% of budget</i>
Australia	29,378	113,983	15,558	0	158,918	2.11%	0	158,918
Canada	29,378	97,935	56	0	127,368	1.69%	0	127,368
China	29,378	157,294	176,307	0	362,978	4.82%	0	362,978
Cook Islands	29,378	873	2,808	0	33,058	0.44%	23,505	56,563
European Union	29,378	263,794	59,349	0	352,521	4.68%	0	352,521
Federated States of Micronesia	29,378	5,507	180,765	0	215,650	2.86%	0	215,650
Fiji	29,378	7,735	27,610	0	64,723	0.86%	0	64,723
France	29,378	99,692	9,845	0	138,914	1.84%	0	138,914
Indonesia	29,378	17,153	179,283	0	225,814	3.00%	0	225,814
Japan	29,378	124,010	946,098	0	1,099,486	14.59%	0	1,099,486
Kiribati	29,378	4,277	314,873	0	348,528	4.62%	0	348,528
Korea	29,378	62,525	877,185	0	969,088	12.86%	0	969,088
Marshall Islands	29,378	2,657	205,196	0	237,231	3.15%	4,468	241,699
Nauru	29,378	683	23	0	30,084	0.40%	24,482	54,566
New Zealand	29,378	66,494	26,951	0	122,823	1.63%	0	122,823
Niue	29,378	81	0	0	29,459	0.39%	20,950	50,409
Palau	29,378	1,087	0	0	30,464	0.40%	18,272	48,736
Papua New Guinea	29,378	3,702	519,038	0	552,118	7.33%	0	552,118
Philippines	29,378	10,419	287,726	0	327,523	4.35%	0	327,523
Samoa	29,378	6,552	2,428	0	38,358	0.51%	0	38,358
Solomon Islands	29,378	3,074	56,288	0	88,741	1.18%	0	88,741
Chinese Taipei	29,378	43,493	729,753	0	802,624	10.65%	0	802,624
Tonga	29,378	5,401	614	0	35,393	0.47%	1,406	36,799
Tuvalu	29,378	560	13,464	0	43,401	0.58%	8,458	51,859
United States of America	29,378	322,019	657,325	0	1,008,722	13.38%	0	1,008,722
Vanuatu	29,378	5,112	58,233	0	92,723	1.23%	0	92,723
Totals	763,825	1,426,109	5,346,777	0	7,536,711	100%	101,542	7,638,252

* To be offset by the CNM Contributions Fund.

ANNEX 3 (continued)

Offset for Small Island Developing States as per Financial Regulation 5.2(b) (ii)

<i>Member</i>	<i>Population</i>	<i>Maximum Payable for wealth component</i>	<i>National wealth component</i>	<i>Offset for Small Island Developing States</i>
Cook Islands	17,459	873	24,378	23,505
Federated States of Micronesia	105,540	5,277	5,507	0
Fiji	905,500	45,275	7,735	0
Kiribati	116,400	5,820	4,277	0
Marshall Islands	53,130	2,657	7,124	4,468
Nauru	13,650	683	25,165	24,482
Niue	1,626	81	21,032	20,950
Palau	21,730	1,087	19,359	18,272
Papua New Guinea	8,251,160	412,558	3,702	0
Samoa	196,440	9,822	6,552	0
Solomon Islands	611,340	30,567	3,074	0
Tonga	108,020	5,401	6,807	1,406
Tuvalu	11,190	560	9,018	8,458
Vanuatu	276,240	13,812	5,112	0
Total				101,542

Additional Funding for Northern Committee as agreed in WCPFC9-2012-22 FAC 6 Summary Report 5.4 (25)

<i>Non-developing States Members of NC</i>	<i>Percent of total budget</i>	<i>Percent of NC fund</i>	<i>Additional cost</i>
Canada	1.67%	3.6%	0
China	4.75%	10.4%	0
Japan	2.96%	6.5%	0
Korea	12.69%	27.7%	0
Chinese Taipei	10.51%	23.0%	0
United States of America	13.21%	28.8%	0
Total	45.78%	100.00%	0

ANNEX 3 (continued)

Indicative schedule of contributions based on proposed 2019 budgets without the Offset for Small Island Developing States and Additional funds Assessed on Non-Developing States Members of NC

Member	2019 Proposed					2020 Indicative		2021 Indicative	
	Base fee component: uniform share 10% of budget	National wealth component: 20% of budget	Catch component: 70% of budget	Total of components: 100% of budget	% of budget by member	Total of components: 100% of budget	% of budget by member	Total of components: 100% of budget	% of budget by member
Australia	29,378	113,983	15,558	158,918	2.08%	157,364	2.08%	159,968	2.08%
Canada	29,378	97,935	56	127,368	1.67%	126,123	1.67%	128,210	1.67%
China	29,378	157,294	176,307	362,978	4.75%	359,427	4.75%	365,377	4.75%
Cook Islands	29,378	24,378	2,808	56,563	0.74%	56,010	0.74%	56,937	0.74%
European Union	29,378	263,794	59,349	352,521	4.62%	349,073	4.62%	354,851	4.62%
Federated States of Micronesia	29,378	5,507	180,765	215,650	2.82%	213,540	2.82%	217,075	2.82%
Fiji	29,378	7,735	27,610	64,723	0.85%	64,090	0.85%	65,151	0.85%
France	29,378	99,692	9,845	138,914	1.82%	137,556	1.82%	139,833	1.82%
Indonesia	29,378	17,153	179,283	225,814	2.96%	223,605	2.96%	227,306	2.96%
Japan	29,378	124,010	946,098	1,099,486	14.39%	1,088,732	14.39%	1,106,754	14.39%
Kiribati	29,378	4,277	314,873	348,528	4.56%	345,119	4.56%	350,832	4.56%
Korea	29,378	62,525	877,185	969,088	12.69%	959,609	12.69%	975,494	12.69%
Marshall Islands	29,378	7,124	205,196	241,699	3.16%	239,335	3.16%	243,296	3.16%
Nauru	29,378	25,165	23	54,566	0.71%	54,032	0.71%	54,926	0.71%
New Zealand	29,378	66,494	26,951	122,823	1.61%	121,621	1.61%	123,635	1.61%
Niue	29,378	21,032	0	50,409	0.66%	49,916	0.66%	50,743	0.66%
Palau	29,378	19,359	0	48,736	0.64%	48,260	0.64%	49,059	0.64%
Papua New Guinea	29,378	3,702	519,038	552,118	7.23%	546,718	7.23%	555,768	7.23%
Philippines	29,378	10,419	287,726	327,523	4.29%	324,319	4.29%	329,688	4.29%
Samoa	29,378	6,552	2,428	38,358	0.50%	37,982	0.50%	38,611	0.50%
Solomon Islands	29,378	3,074	56,288	88,741	1.16%	87,873	1.16%	89,327	1.16%
Chinese Taipei	29,378	43,493	729,753	802,624	10.51%	794,773	10.51%	807,929	10.51%
Tonga	29,378	6,807	614	36,799	0.48%	36,439	0.48%	37,042	0.48%
Tuvalu	29,378	9,018	13,464	51,859	0.68%	51,352	0.68%	52,202	0.68%
United States of America	29,378	322,019	657,325	1,008,722	13.21%	998,855	13.21%	1,015,389	13.21%
Vanuatu	29,378	5,112	58,233	92,723	1.21%	91,816	1.21%	93,336	1.21%
Totals	763,825	1,527,650	5,346,777	7,638,252	100.00%	7,563,537	100.00%	7,688,740	100.00%

ANNEX 1

**Summary of estimated General Fund budgetary requirements for 2019
and indicative figures for 2020 and 2021 (USD)**

	<i>Approved budget 2018</i>	<i>Estimated expenditure 2018</i>	<i>Indicative budget 2019</i>	<i>Approved budget 2019</i>	<i>Indicative budget 2020</i>	<i>Indicative budget 2021</i>
Part 1 - Administrative Expenses of the Secretariat						
Sub-Item 1.1	<i>Staff Costs</i>					
Professional Staff Salary	957,069	913,783	959,797	957,069	957,069	957,069
Professional Staff Benefits and Allowances	942,273	872,916	920,832	915,109	892,395	908,395
Professional Staff Insurance	123,219	141,746	126,765	133,371	135,504	137,448
Recruitment/Repatriation	25,565	15,800	25,565	25,565	25,565	51,130
Support Staff	410,632	385,395	415,985	440,167	448,145	456,662
Total, sub-item 1.1	2,458,758	2,329,640	2,448,945	2,471,281	2,458,678	2,510,704
Sub-Item 1.2	<i>Other Personnel Costs</i>					
Temporary Assistance/Overtime	16,500	15,865	16,500	16,500	16,500	16,500
Chairs Expenses	25,000	17,687	30,000	0	0	0
Consultants <i>see note 1</i>	148,000	131,004	148,000	166,000	148,000	148,000
Total, sub-item 1.2	189,500	164,556	194,500	182,500	164,500	164,500
Sub-item 1.3	<i>Official Travel</i>					
	210,000	181,993	210,000	210,000	210,000	210,000
Sub-item 1.4	<i>General Operating Expenses</i>					
Electricity, Water, Sanitation	60,000	55,568	60,000	60,000	60,000	60,000
Communications/Courier	76,000	71,926	76,000	76,000	76,000	76,000
Office Supplies & Fuel	43,000	41,802	43,000	40,000	43,000	43,000
Audit	7,000	7,000	7,500	7,500	7,500	7,500
Bank Charges	9,500	9,644	9,500	9,500	9,500	9,500
Official Hospitality	10,000	9,250	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
Community Outreach	8,000	8,000	8,000	8,000	8,000	8,000
Miscellaneous Services	6,400	5,187	6,400	6,400	6,400	6,400
Security	93,000	95,851	93,000	93,000	93,000	93,000
Training	15,000	1,479	15,000	10,000	15,000	15,000
Total, sub-item 1.4	327,900	305,707	328,400	320,400	328,400	328,400
Sub-item 1.5	<i>Capital Expenditure</i>					
Vehicles	22,000	21,086	22,000	22,000	0	22,000
Information Technology	56,753	56,161	56,753	56,753	56,753	56,753
Website New Projects/Enhancements	8,000	9,355	20,000	20,000	8,000	8,000
Furniture and Equipment	32,000	31,311	32,000	32,000	32,000	32,000
Total, sub-item 1.5	118,753	117,913	130,753	130,753	96,753	118,753
Sub-item 1.6	<i>Maintenance</i>					
Vehicles	6,000	6,966	5,800	6,000	6,000	6,000
Information and Communication Technology	128,638	123,017	128,638	129,714	129,714	129,714
Buildings & Grounds	56,500	56,538	56,500	56,500	56,500	56,500
Gardeners and Cleaners	77,074	79,599	79,500	79,500	79,500	79,500
Insurance	23,000	18,921	23,000	23,000	23,000	23,000
Total, sub-item 1.6	291,212	285,041	293,438	294,714	294,714	294,714
Sub-item 1.7	<i>Meeting Services</i>					
Annual Session <i>see note 2</i>	165,000	235,000	165,000	202,400	165,000	165,000
Scientific Committee	236,200	207,605	192,000	192,000	192,000	192,000
Northern Committee <i>see note 3</i>	18,000	16,241	18,000	18,000	18,000	18,000
Technical and Compliance Committee	187,800	146,750	159,800	159,800	159,800	159,800
Total, sub-item 1.7	607,000	605,596	534,800	572,200	534,800	534,800
TOTAL, Section 1/Item 1	4,203,124	3,990,446	4,140,837	4,181,849	4,087,846	4,161,872

	<i>Approved budget 2018</i>	<i>Estimated expenditure 2018</i>	<i>Indicative budget 2019</i>	<i>Approved budget 2019</i>	<i>Indicative budget 2020</i>	<i>Indicative budget 2021</i>
ANNEX 1 (continued)						
Part 2 - Science & Technical & Compliance Programme						
Section 2 (Item 2)						
Sub-item 2.1	Scientific Services (SPC)	888,624	888,624	906,396	906,396	924,524
Sub-item 2.2	<i>Scientific Research</i>					
	Additional Resourcing SPC	163,200	163,200	164,832	164,832	166,480
	P42 Pacific Tuna Tagging Project	500,000	500,000	650,000	645,000	730,000
	P60 Improving purse seine species composition	0	0	40,000	0	40,000
	P57 Limit Reference Points	25,000	25,000	0	0	0
	P68 Estimation of Seabird Mortality	22,500	22,500	17,500	17,500	0
	P88 Acoustic FAD analyses	0	0	120,000	0	120,000
	P92 Alternative stock assessments whitetip shark	0	0	0	0	0
	P94 Workshop on YF and BE age and growth	0	0	0	15,000	0
	P35b Maintenance of WCPFC Tissue Bank	97,200	97,200	97,200	97,200	99,195
	P90 Fish weights/lengths for scientific analyses	0	0	40,000	60,000	30,000
	P81 Further work on bigeye tuna age and growth	30,000	30,000	0	0	0
	P82 Yellowfin tuna age and growth	100,000	100,000	85,000	85,000	0
	P83 Investigating the potential for WCPFC tag vessel	0	0	0	0	0
	High Priority Project(s) - to be allocated <i>see note 4</i>	0	0	83,000	0	83,000
	Total, sub-item 2.2	937,900	937,900	1,297,532	1,084,532	1,183,675
Sub-item 2.3	Technical & Compliance Programme					
	ROP - Audit/Remediation	15,000	23,951	15,000	15,000	15,000
	ROP - Special Projects and Research Activities	10,000	0	10,000	2,000	2,000
	ROP - Training, Assistance & Development	20,000	8,289	20,000	10,000	10,000
	Observer CMM booklet	13,000	11,671	13,000	0	0
	ROP Data Management	923,904	923,904	923,904	923,904	923,904
	Vessel Monitoring System - Capital Costs	20,000	19,500	20,000	20,000	20,000
	Vessel Monitoring System	265,000	228,352	265,000	235,000	235,000
	Vessel Monitoring System - Airtime	197,600	199,731	199,576	201,572	203,587
	Vessel Monitoring System - Security Audit	8,400	8,400	8,400	8,400	8,400
	CCM/Staff VMS Training	40,000	6,214	40,000	25,000	25,000
	Information Management System	100,000	99,179	100,000	100,000	100,000
	CMS Future Work <i>see note 6</i>	0	0	0	100,000	0
	Workshops/IATTC Cross Endor. Train.	28,000	20,447	28,000	10,000	10,000
	AR Part 2/CMS Online Host. and Pub.	18,000	18,000	18,000	18,000	18,000
	Targeted Capacity Building	50,000	1,343	50,000	40,000	40,000
	E-Monitoring and E-Reporting Workshop	50,000	12,148	0	0	0
	E-Monitoring and E-Reporting Activities	110,000	109,147	30,000	30,000	30,000
	Regional Capacity Building Workshops <i>see note 5</i>	130,000	130,000	130,000	130,000	130,000
	Total, item 2.3	1,998,904	1,820,275	1,870,880	1,868,876	1,772,927
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	Total, Parts 1 & 2	8,028,552	7,637,245	8,215,645	8,041,652	8,092,140

Note 1: Consultancies proposed are:

Legal support services	\$55,000
ED Discretion	\$25,000
Media Consultant	\$10,000
Building Maintenance Plan Consultant	\$28,000
Meetings' rapporteur	\$48,000
	<u>\$166,000</u>

Note 2: Annual Session

Based on the meeting being hosted in PNG with one extra meeting day

Note 3: Northern Committee

As per WPCFC9, an additional USD25,000 will be assessed from non-developing state members of the NC to fund attendance at the NC meeting by developing states and territories if needed.

Note 4: Unobligated Budget

For science-related projects requested by the Commission with no budget allocation

Note 5: Regional Capacity Building Workshops

FFA/SPC to advise on the use of these funds

Note 6: IMS

USD20,000 for development of CMS systems

USD80,000 for implementation of new CMS requirements

ANNEX 2

**Proposed General Fund financing table for 2019
01 January to 31 December 2019**

Proposed budget expenditure total	8,041,652
less	
Estimated interest	(3,400)
Transfer from Working Capital Fund	(350,000)
CNM Contributions Fund	(50,000)
Total assessed contributions	<u><u>7,638,252</u></u>

**Proposed General Fund financing table for 2020
01 January to 31 December 2020**

Proposed budget expenditure total	7,966,937
less	
Estimated interest and other income	(3,400)
Transfer from Working Capital Fund	(350,000)
CNM Contributions Fund	(50,000)
Total assessed contributions	<u><u>7,563,537</u></u>

**Proposed General Fund financing table for 2021
01 January to 31 December 2021**

Proposed budget expenditure total	8,092,140
less	
Estimated interest and other income	(3,400)
Transfer from Working Capital Fund	(350,000)
CNM Contributions Fund	(50,000)
Total assessed contributions	<u><u>7,688,740</u></u>

ANNEX 3

Indicative schedule of contributions based on the Commission’s contribution formula

<i>2019 Contribution Table</i>								
<i>Member</i>	<i>Base fee component: uniform share 10% of budget</i>	<i>National wealth component: 20% of budget</i>	<i>Catch component: 70% of budget</i>	<i>Addition for Northern Committee</i>	<i>Total Contributions by Members</i>	<i>Percent of Budget by member</i>	<i>Offset for Small Island Developing States*</i>	<i>Total of components: 100% of budget</i>
Australia	29,378	113,983	15,558	0	158,918	2.11%	0	158,918
Canada	29,378	97,935	56	0	127,368	1.69%	0	127,368
China	29,378	157,294	176,307	0	362,978	4.82%	0	362,978
Cook Islands	29,378	873	2,808	0	33,058	0.44%	23,505	56,563
European Union	29,378	263,794	59,349	0	352,521	4.68%	0	352,521
Federated States of Micronesia	29,378	5,507	180,765	0	215,650	2.86%	0	215,650
Fiji	29,378	7,735	27,610	0	64,723	0.86%	0	64,723
France	29,378	99,692	9,845	0	138,914	1.84%	0	138,914
Indonesia	29,378	17,153	179,283	0	225,814	3.00%	0	225,814
Japan	29,378	124,010	946,098	0	1,099,486	14.59%	0	1,099,486
Kiribati	29,378	4,277	314,873	0	348,528	4.62%	0	348,528
Korea	29,378	62,525	877,185	0	969,088	12.86%	0	969,088
Marshall Islands	29,378	2,657	205,196	0	237,231	3.15%	4,468	241,699
Nauru	29,378	683	23	0	30,084	0.40%	24,482	54,566
New Zealand	29,378	66,494	26,951	0	122,823	1.63%	0	122,823
Niue	29,378	81	0	0	29,459	0.39%	20,950	50,409
Palau	29,378	1,087	0	0	30,464	0.40%	18,272	48,736
Papua New Guinea	29,378	3,702	519,038	0	552,118	7.33%	0	552,118
Philippines	29,378	10,419	287,726	0	327,523	4.35%	0	327,523
Samoa	29,378	6,552	2,428	0	38,358	0.51%	0	38,358
Solomon Islands	29,378	3,074	56,288	0	88,741	1.18%	0	88,741
Chinese Taipei	29,378	43,493	729,753	0	802,624	10.65%	0	802,624
Tonga	29,378	5,401	614	0	35,393	0.47%	1,406	36,799
Tuvalu	29,378	560	13,464	0	43,401	0.58%	8,458	51,859
United States of America	29,378	322,019	657,325	0	1,008,722	13.38%	0	1,008,722
Vanuatu	29,378	5,112	58,233	0	92,723	1.23%	0	92,723
Totals	763,825	1,426,109	5,346,777	0	7,536,711	100%	101,542	7,638,252

* To be offset by the CNM Contributions Fund.

ANNEX 3 (continued)

Offset for Small Island Developing States as per Financial Regulation 5.2(b) (ii)

<i>Member</i>	<i>Population</i>	<i>Maximum Payable for wealth component</i>	<i>National wealth component</i>	<i>Offset for Small Island Developing States</i>
Cook Islands	17,459	873	24,378	23,505
Federated States of Micronesia	105,540	5,277	5,507	0
Fiji	905,500	45,275	7,735	0
Kiribati	116,400	5,820	4,277	0
Marshall Islands	53,130	2,657	7,124	4,468
Nauru	13,650	683	25,165	24,482
Niue	1,626	81	21,032	20,950
Palau	21,730	1,087	19,359	18,272
Papua New Guinea	8,251,160	412,558	3,702	0
Samoa	196,440	9,822	6,552	0
Solomon Islands	611,340	30,567	3,074	0
Tonga	108,020	5,401	6,807	1,406
Tuvalu	11,190	560	9,018	8,458
Vanuatu	276,240	13,812	5,112	0
Total				101,542

Additional Funding for Northern Committee as agreed in WCPFC9-2012-22 FAC 6 Summary Report 5.4 (25)

<i>Non-developing States Members of NC</i>	<i>Percent of total budget</i>	<i>Percent of NC fund</i>	<i>Additional cost</i>
Canada	1.67%	3.6%	0
China	4.75%	10.4%	0
Japan	2.96%	6.5%	0
Korea	12.69%	27.7%	0
Chinese Taipei	10.51%	23.0%	0
United States of America	13.21%	28.8%	0
Total	45.78%	100.00%	0

ANNEX 3 (continued)

Indicative schedule of contributions based on proposed 2019 budgets without the Offset for Small Island Developing States and Additional funds Assessed on Non-Developing States Members of NC

Member	2019 Proposed					2020 Indicative		2021 Indicative	
	Base fee component: uniform share 10% of budget	National wealth component: 20% of budget	Catch component: 70% of budget	Total of components: 100% of budget	% of budget by member	Total of components: 100% of budget	% of budget by member	Total of components: 100% of budget	% of budget by member
Australia	29,378	113,983	15,558	158,918	2.08%	157,364	2.08%	159,968	2.08%
Canada	29,378	97,935	56	127,368	1.67%	126,123	1.67%	128,210	1.67%
China	29,378	157,294	176,307	362,978	4.75%	359,427	4.75%	365,377	4.75%
Cook Islands	29,378	24,378	2,808	56,563	0.74%	56,010	0.74%	56,937	0.74%
European Union	29,378	263,794	59,349	352,521	4.62%	349,073	4.62%	354,851	4.62%
Federated States of Micronesia	29,378	5,507	180,765	215,650	2.82%	213,540	2.82%	217,075	2.82%
Fiji	29,378	7,735	27,610	64,723	0.85%	64,090	0.85%	65,151	0.85%
France	29,378	99,692	9,845	138,914	1.82%	137,556	1.82%	139,833	1.82%
Indonesia	29,378	17,153	179,283	225,814	2.96%	223,605	2.96%	227,306	2.96%
Japan	29,378	124,010	946,098	1,099,486	14.39%	1,088,732	14.39%	1,106,754	14.39%
Kiribati	29,378	4,277	314,873	348,528	4.56%	345,119	4.56%	350,832	4.56%
Korea	29,378	62,525	877,185	969,088	12.69%	959,609	12.69%	975,494	12.69%
Marshall Islands	29,378	7,124	205,196	241,699	3.16%	239,335	3.16%	243,296	3.16%
Nauru	29,378	25,165	23	54,566	0.71%	54,032	0.71%	54,926	0.71%
New Zealand	29,378	66,494	26,951	122,823	1.61%	121,621	1.61%	123,635	1.61%
Niue	29,378	21,032	0	50,409	0.66%	49,916	0.66%	50,743	0.66%
Palau	29,378	19,359	0	48,736	0.64%	48,260	0.64%	49,059	0.64%
Papua New Guinea	29,378	3,702	519,038	552,118	7.23%	546,718	7.23%	555,768	7.23%
Philippines	29,378	10,419	287,726	327,523	4.29%	324,319	4.29%	329,688	4.29%
Samoa	29,378	6,552	2,428	38,358	0.50%	37,982	0.50%	38,611	0.50%
Solomon Islands	29,378	3,074	56,288	88,741	1.16%	87,873	1.16%	89,327	1.16%
Chinese Taipei	29,378	43,493	729,753	802,624	10.51%	794,773	10.51%	807,929	10.51%
Tonga	29,378	6,807	614	36,799	0.48%	36,439	0.48%	37,042	0.48%
Tuvalu	29,378	9,018	13,464	51,859	0.68%	51,352	0.68%	52,202	0.68%
United States of America	29,378	322,019	657,325	1,008,722	13.21%	998,855	13.21%	1,015,389	13.21%
Vanuatu	29,378	5,112	58,233	92,723	1.21%	91,816	1.21%	93,336	1.21%
Totals	763,825	1,527,650	5,346,777	7,638,252	100.00%	7,563,537	100.00%	7,688,740	100.00%

Abbreviations

ABNJ	–	Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction Program (Common Oceans)
ACAP	–	Agreement for the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels
ALC	–	Automatic Location Communicator
ANCORS	–	Australian National Centre for Ocean Resources and Security
BMIS	–	Bycatch Mitigation Information System
B_{MSY}	–	biomass that will support the maximum sustainable yield
CCM	–	Members, Cooperating Non-members and participating Territories
CCSBT	–	Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna
CDS	–	catch documentation scheme
CLAV	–	Consolidated List of Authorised Vessels
CMM	–	Conservation and Management Measure
CMR	–	Compliance Monitoring Report
CMS	–	Compliance Monitoring Scheme
CNM	–	Cooperating Non-Member
CNMI	–	Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
the Convention	–	The Convention for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean
CPUE	–	catch per unit effort
CSIRO	–	Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (Australia)
DFLL	–	deep frozen tuna longline
DWFN	–	distant water fishing nation
EAFM	–	ecosystem approach to fisheries management
EDF	–	Environmental Defense Fund
EEZ	–	exclusive economic zone
EM	–	electronic monitoring
ENSO	–	El Niño-Southern Oscillation
EPO	–	eastern Pacific Ocean
ER	–	electronic reporting
ERA	–	ecological risk assessment
EHSP-SMA	–	Eastern High Seas Pocket-Special Management Area
EU	–	European Union
F	–	fishing mortality rate
FAC	–	Finance and Administration Committee
FAD	–	fish aggregation device
FAO	–	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
$F_{current}$	–	average fishing mortality rate over the period xxxx–xxxx
FFA	–	Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency
FL	–	fork length
F_{MSY}	–	fishing mortality that will support the maximum sustainable yield
FNA	–	fins naturally attached
FRP	–	fishing mortality-based reference point
FSA	–	United Nations Fish Stock Agreement
FSI	–	Flag State Investigation
FSM	–	Federated States of Micronesia
GEF	–	Global Environment Facility
HCR	–	harvest control rule
HSBI	–	high seas boarding and inspection

IATTC	–	Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission
ICCAT	–	International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas
IELP	–	International Environmental Law Project
IGOs	–	intergovernmental organizations
IMO	–	International Maritime Organization
IMS	–	Information Management System
IOTC	–	Indian Ocean Tuna Commission
IPNLF	–	International Pole and Line Foundation
ISC	–	International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-like Species in the North Pacific Ocean
ISSF	–	International Seafood Sustainability Foundation
IT	–	information technology
IUU	–	illegal, unreported and unregulated
IWG	–	intersessional working group
JTF	–	Japan Trust Fund
LRP	–	limit reference point
M	–	mortality
M _{FMT}	–	maximum fishing mortality threshold
MCS	–	Monitoring Control and Surveillance
MIMRA	–	Marshall Islands Marine Resources Authority
MOC	–	management options consultation
MOU	–	memorandum of understanding
MSC	–	Marine Stewardship Council
MSE	–	management strategy evaluation
MSY	–	maximum sustainable yield
mt	–	metric tonnes
MTU	–	Mobile Transceiver Unit
NC	–	Northern Committee
NGO	–	Non-governmental Organization
NP	–	North Pacific
NZ	–	New Zealand
pCMR	–	provisional Compliance Monitoring Report
PEW	–	The Pew Charitable Trusts
PITIA	–	Pacific Islands Tuna Industry Association
PNA	–	Parties to the Nauru Agreement
PNG	–	Papua New Guinea
RFV	–	Record of Fishing Vessels
ROP	–	Regional Observer Programme
RFMO	–	regional fisheries management organization
RMI	–	Republic of the Marshall Islands
SB	–	spawning biomass
SBF=0	–	spawning biomass in the absence of fishing
SC	–	Scientific Committee of the WCPFC
SIDS	–	small island developing states
SIP	–	strategic investment plan
SPA-VIWG	–	South Pacific albacore virtual intersessional working group
SPC	–	Secretariat of the Pacific Community
SPC-OFP	–	The Pacific Community Oceanic Fisheries Programme
SRF	–	Special Requirements Fund
SRR	–	stock-recruitment relationship
SSB	–	spawning stock biomass

SSI	–	species of special interest
SSP	–	standards, specifications and procedures
SWG	–	small working group
T	–	metric ton
TCC	–	Technical and Compliance Committee
TNC	–	The Nature Conservancy
TOR	–	terms of reference
TRP	–	target reference point
TUFMAN	–	Tuna Fisheries Database Management System
UN	–	United Nations
UNCLOS	–	United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea
USA	–	United States of America
USD	–	US dollars
VDS	–	vessel day scheme
VID	–	vessel identification (number)
VMS	–	vessel monitoring system
WCPFC	–	Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission
WCPFC Convention Area	–	Area of competence of the Commission for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean, as defined in Article 3 of the Convention
WCPFC Statistical Area	–	The WCPFC Statistical Area is defined in para. 8 of “Scientific data to be provided to the Commission” (as adopted at WCPFC13)
WCPO	–	western and central Pacific Ocean
WG	–	working group
WPEA	–	West Pacific and East Asian Seas
WPO	–	Western Pacific Ocean
WPFMC	–	Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council
WTPO	–	World Tuna Purse Seine Organisation
WWF	–	World Wide Fund for Nature

